

INSIDE

GO BROOKLYN

Dinner or a spa for Mom's Day

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Downtown News, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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BROOKLYN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER

The Brooklyn Papers

FOR 25 YEARS

2 judge-picking Dems quit panel as grand jury turns up the heat

ANOTHER B'KLYN JUDGE IS AXED

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Capping an already horrific week for the borough's judiciary, the state Court of Appeals on Thursday ordered Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Reynold Mason to step down.

Mason, 52, had been accused of illegally subletting his apartment for 10 years to his brother-in-law, depositing the money paid to him into an escrow account and refusing to give the land-

lord \$15,000 in back rent. The Commission on Judicial Conduct ordered Mason removed from the bench in June and the Court of Appeals supported the decision on May 1.

The commission report had noted that Mason was uncooperative during the investigation and "that he failed to respond to six letters seeking his response to the allegation of misconduct." Paul Gentile, Mason's attorney, did

See **ANOTHER JUDGE** on page 5



Democratic boss Clarence Norman (above) addresses party faithful in the Marriott after protesters, some dressed in judges robes, rallied outside.



By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two longtime members of the Brooklyn Democratic Party's judicial screening panel abandoned ship on Tuesday as calls for reform got louder and a special grand jury's investigation into the judicial selection process moved forward.

Barry Kamins and George Farkas, both Court Street attorneys, resigned from the screening panel, with Farkas saying the screening panel was "flawed."

"I believe that certain people's participation in the committee itself leaves the committee subject to potential criticism," Farkas told The Brooklyn Papers. "And the bottom line being, I believe, the entire system of selections has very serious flaws in it. And the screening committee happens to be part of the system."

He declined to name anyone he believed did not belong on the screening panel.

"A number of things have occurred, a lot of it in the public eye, some of it which will come into the public eye, such as who gets interviewed and what a particular applicant is entitled to before being interviewed," said Farkas.

After Civil Court Judge Margarita Lopez Torres was shunted aside for an interview last year with the screening panel because she hadn't been referred by the county leader, Assemblyman Clarence Norman, two members threatened to leave the panel.

"I'll let you guess who those were," he said, hinting that it was he and Kamins.

Lopez Torres has claimed that she has been at odds with the county party ever since she refused to hire a legal secretary referred to her by Norman and in another instance, one referred by Bushwick Assemblyman Vito Lopez, a party loyalist.

Lopez Torres once again declared her candi-

See **QUIT** on page 5

BRIBE JUDGE CASES ARE UNDER REVIEW

The Brooklyn Papers

With District Attorney Charles Hynes building a case against Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Gerald Garson for allegedly accepting gifts to fix divorce cases, court overseers have turned their attention to the disgraced jurist's past rulings.

The state Office of Court Administration has even set up a hotline for people to report suspicious verdicts.

"As of the time of the arraignment there were under 10 cases that we've identified as being improperly routed to Judge Garson," said David Bookstaver, a spokesman for the Office of Court Administration. There have been

See **UNDER REVIEW** on page 5

Protest at Dem dinner

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

What a difference a year makes.

While last year's Kings County Democratic Committee dinner featured a few intentional absences by reformers and party dissidents, the party stood generally united and fired back at criticism.

This year's dinner, however, featured factions holding separate events and the dinner itself was greeted with a protest from a group of elected officials and executive committee members. The protesters waved placards outside the New York Marriott Brooklyn Thursday night, reading, "Order in the Courts" and "Justice is not a family affair."

The protest was organized by Alan Fleishman and Liz Daly, state committee members, also known as district leaders, of the 52nd Assembly District of Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights. Among the 20 or so to attend the protest rally were Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky and Park

See **DINNER PROTEST** on page 5



Blossoms in bloom

Loan Nguyen takes a photo of her grandsons Pen and Peter Nguyen on a Japanese Flowering Cherry at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Cherry blossoms peaked last week.

Sloper sues 'Prez' Sheen

Filmmaker cites 'West Wing' actor, claiming theft of script

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A Park Slope filmmaker is creating some real life drama — he's filed suit against the President of the United States (or at least the man who plays him on TV).

Sitting on a bench outside Ozzie's coffee shop on Seventh Avenue, Tomislav Novakovic, a Croatian-born director and screenwriter, explained the lawsuit, which seeks damages against, among others, the actor Martin Sheen.

"After seeing many films come out of that part of the world with men in military fatigues shooting each other, I wanted to write about a female character that refuses to become a victim of tragedy," said Novakovic, who may have become a victim of a tragedy of another kind.

When Novakovic learned from a cover story in Gloria magazine — the Eastern European equivalent of People — that a Croatian



Croatian-born Tomislav Novakovic in Park Slope

director was filming a movie starring Martin Sheen that sounded remarkably similar to one he had penned, Novakovic got himself a lawyer.

In Novakovic's lawsuit, filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, he claims that director Jakov Sedlar stole his screenplay after reading

See **SUE SHEEN** on page 7



Actor Martin Sheen at an anti-war vigil in Los Angeles on March 26.

19th-century 'Eagle' morgue comes alive online

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The fragile pages of the Brooklyn Eagle, once threatened by age at the Brooklyn Public Library, are now preserved in cyberspace.

Under headlines such as "An Aggressive Campaign: Women Suffragists Are Forging Right Along" and "Plymouth Church and the Slavery Question" the pages offer a fascinating glimpse into the then-contemporary past of Brooklyn in the vernacular of the times.

EXCLUSIVE

The Web site, which the library is still testing, but which The Brooklyn Papers got an exclusive look at this week, also captures the freshness of Brooklyn's evolving narrative 150 years ago, including the opening hall of the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1861; the inauguration of the Brooklyn Bridge on May 24, 1883 and Brooklyn's transformation from city to borough on Jan. 1, 1898.

"The Eagle online will offer patrons a new window into history," said Brooklyn Public Library executive director Ginnie Cooper.

The Web site features editions from January 1841 through December 1902, that are, incredibly, keyword searchable. There are also special compilations by subject for African-American History, B.A.M., the Brooklyn Bridge, consolidation, the draft riots, Walt Whitman and more. When a particular edition is accessed, readers can browse the front page and select clips from the newspapers of the day.

The site was paid for with a \$239,900 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and was constructed by the Brooklyn Public Library with Online Computer Library Center, a nonprofit research organization.

The digitization of the Brooklyn Eagle was performed concurrently with an expansion and upgrade to the Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Collection, which includes archives of maps, books and records dating back to pre-colonial times.

The collection has served as a resource to writers, historians and the filmmakers Ken and Ric Burns, who used it in the making of their classic documentaries "New York, A Documentary Film" and "Baseball." Former Borough President Howard Golden allocated \$3.9 million towards a consolidation of the original newspapers into a single climate-controlled reading room.

The Web site is expected to be running normally by September. The cost to access the site, if any, is still being determined, a BPL spokeswoman said.

"This is an unbelievable way for Brooklynites, and people all around the world, to learn more about our borough's fascinating history," said Borough President Marty Markowitz. "To have all of this easily accessible information is certainly a historical gold



The Brooklyn Eagle heralds formation of Greater New York in 1898.

Firehouse panel a rubber stamp

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Members of the blue-ribbon panel that was convened to investigate whether the mayor really needed to close eight firehouses told the City Council on Monday that the decision was "a foregone conclusion" and their meetings were little more than a rubber-stamp formality.

Frank Fellini a retired assistant fire chief

and Brooklyn borough commander, was an appointee of Council Speaker Gifford Miller to the panel. He told the council's Fire and Criminal Justice Committee that despite suggesting alternatives "the vote was pro forma."

The council's other appointee to the panel, Glenn Corbett, an assistant professor of Fire Science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, testified that in the panel's three meetings the Fire Department budget was never produced and that, in total, they only

met for five or six hours.

"You didn't even spend an hour a house," said Councilwoman Yvette Clarke, of Flatbush, who chairs the committee.

On April 7, the panel voted to shutter the eight firehouses, five of which are in Brooklyn. Both Corbett and Fellini were the only dissenting votes on the seven-member panel, which was stacked with appointees of Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

See **FIREHOUSE** on page 7

Ed Weintrob / We were softer then, but not for long

The first issues of The Brooklyn Paper, back in 1978, were nothing like today's.

I was looking for an opening in Brooklyn's newspaper market and found one Downtown, where no weekly publication served the area's tens of thousands of office workers (daytimers, we called them, leaving in various Brooklyn neighborhoods). We figured we'd leave residents in the 'hoods near Downtown to the existing publications.

Our product was "soft," featurey but not fluffy. Even so we ran

into some trouble right away. Our first edition featured a roundup of lunch spots — since our readers left the area at 5 o'clock, lunch was the big deal. In an otherwise complimentary review of Capulet's on Montague Street, our critic mentioned that the wait for service at lunchtime was a long one. The proprietor was displeased.

Fortunately, others were happier. A Montague Street retailer knew exactly which day The Paper came out — around noon, office workers would be beginning showing up with his ad in hand.



When "9 to 5" came out, office worker features, which in those days meant a trio of office workers who wreaked revenge on their (male) boss — Features Editor Laurie Brockway

Our preview issue's cover pictured a secretary about to pour a pot of coffee over her boss' head. We were not office worker features, which in those days meant a trio of office workers who wreaked revenge on their (male) boss —

First, within a few weeks, the

city's daily newspapers were closed by a lengthy strike, and some people assumed we were a temporary "strike" paper. (In those days, New Yorkers were so desperate to read a newspaper every day that when the dailies would be struck shut, which happened with some frequency, entrepreneurs would start "strike" papers, employing some of the strikers and giving readers their daily fix. One publisher, an old acquaintance operating on the tightest of budgets, borrowed time on our typesetting equipment; when the Pope died on

deadline, their cover featured a picture of the pontiff and this headline: "Pope dies, details tomorrow.")

The second thing involved the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, self-proclaimed Korean messiah, right-wing political aspirant and cult-leader whose legions were dispatched throughout the city distributing Moon literature — and flowers. We were the first major "free" newspaper in Brooklyn, and many people didn't understand the concept — how could we make money, giving it away? In our first weeks, as we offered Papers to passersby,

more than a handful wouldn't stop, thinking us "Moonies." The free concept, however, was destined for widespread acceptance, and it now dominates the weekly newspaper business — there are even several free dailies, though not in New York. Acceptance did not come overnight; getting there required creativity and determination. Submissiveness, really. Meanwhile, our featurey and Downtown-centric approach lasted about two months. More on that in a future column. EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com



The Brooklyn Paper, Inc. Photo by [unreadable]

Puppet regime

A giant puppet and its followers march along the promenade during St. Ann's Puppet Parade on Monday.

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Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

Movie A.M. stole

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A cash machine disappeared from a Downtown movie theater on April 30.

A 25-year-old employee of the movie house, on Court Street between Schermerhorn and State streets, told police that shortly before 7 pm she discovered the cash machine was no longer there.

The machine itself was valued at \$1,500. An employee of the theater said someone, or a group of people, ripped the machine off a platform.

Still running

A display case containing cameras and drug batteries was grabbed at a Erez store on Fulton Street, between Hanover Place and Duffield Street.

A witness told police he saw

POLICE BLOTTER

three men grab the case at around 7:30 pm, on May 3, then keep going, and going and going.

The thieves were caught on surveillance video, which is being studied by detectives. The items were valued at \$1,030.

Twinkle fix

A thief was thwarted in his attempts to steal a handful of Hostess cakes, the company best known for its atterly-clinging Twinkies, from a store on Hicks Street, between West Ninth and Mill streets at 5:15 pm on May 5.

An employee, 42, grabbed the cakes back, when the thief pulled a knife and said, "Do something and I'll kill you," according to police.

The nasty customer then took off without his haul.

Talk not cheap

A man, 55, placed his briefcase on the corner of Montague and Court streets, at 8 am, on April 29, to indulge in a brief conversation with an acquaintance. When he turned his attention back to his briefcase, it was gone. The victim reported his identification, checkbook and credit cards stolen.

Atlantic maul

A 51-year-old man was walking down Atlantic Avenue, crossing Nevins Street, at 3:15 am on May 4, when he was set upon by a mugger who said, "Give me your money or I'm going to punch you in the face."

Before making any more threats the robber then grabbed a necklace of the victim's neck and fled. Police have identified a suspect and he is wanted for questioning.

State St. attack

On April 30, at 9:30 pm, a man, 48, was pushed to the ground from behind on the corner of State and Bond streets.

When the suspect fled, two men pounced to grab his wallet, containing identification and miscellaneous papers. Both muggers then fled south on Bond Street.

Right off lot

A gray 2002 Ford Explorer vanished from a parking lot on Livingston Street between Court Street and Boerum Place. In addition to the vehicle, however, the victim, 44, valued the stolen cargo at almost \$10,000.

The victim parked the car at 9 am, on April 25, and returned 10 hours later to discover the car gone. In addition to the vehicle, the victim reported stolen a suede jacket, guitar, CDs, cassettes, perfume and a cell phone.

Fulton frisk

A shopper at a department store on Fulton Street, at the corner of Jay Street, was browsing the aisles on April 30 when a sticky-fingered pickpocket reached into her purse and stole her wallet.

Mouse that roared

One of two inflatable rats on Montague Street Friday, where local unions protested non-union asbestos workers.

Catholic lay group allowed to return

Associated Press

The ban on a Catholic lay group that addresses the church's sexual scandals has been reversed, Brooklyn diocese officials said.

Bishop Thomas Daily, leader of the diocese of Brooklyn, reversed the ban on Thursday, allowing Voice of the Faithful to meet on church property. For six months, the group had met in a college meeting room, a

Baptist Church and an American Legion Hall.

Voice of the Faithful, was first organized last year in Boston in response to allegations of sex abuse by priests there. Since then, chapters have sprouted across the country.

"We are eager to get back into our parishes," said Melissa Gradel, the organization's regional coordinator told The New York Times.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 1st day of April, 2003, bearing the Index Number: N0032003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Donald Thomas Clark. My present address is: 249 Howard Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11201. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY 11201. My date of birth is: 12/12/1972. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 28th day of April, 2003, bearing the Index Number: N0032003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Volante O'Connell. My present name is: Sally Ann Marini. My present address is: 469 42nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220. My place of birth is: Daytona Beach, Florida. My date of birth is: 03/04/1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 28th day of April, 2003, bearing the Index Number: N0032003, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 001, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Steven Chasmarly. My present name is: Vayshelady Chasmarly. My present address is: 274 E Bay, Brooklyn, NY 11214. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: 05/18/1986.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS, WILLIAMSBURG, NEW YORK. IN RE: MORTGAGE OF GDO, INC. vs. MORTGAGE COMPANY OF GDO, INC. et al. Dated: April 22, 2003. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on April 22, 2003, and for public notice, I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Supreme Court of the County of Kings, State of New York, do hereby certify that the sum of \$200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) is due and payable to the mortgagee, MORTGAGE COMPANY OF GDO, INC. by the mortgagor, GDO, INC. on or before the date of the sale, to-wit: May 15, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in room 100 of the Supreme Court of the County of Kings, State of New York, at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. The sum of \$200,000.00 is due and payable to the mortgagee, MORTGAGE COMPANY OF GDO, INC. by the mortgagor, GDO, INC. on or before the date of the sale, to-wit: May 15, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in room 100 of the Supreme Court of the County of Kings, State of New York, at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. The sum of \$200,000.00 is due and payable to the mortgagee, MORTGAGE COMPANY OF GDO, INC. by the mortgagor, GDO, INC. on or before the date of the sale, to-wit: May 15, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in room 100 of the Supreme Court of the County of Kings, State of New York, at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. The sum of \$200,000.00 is due and payable to the mortgagee, MORTGAGE COMPANY OF GDO, INC. by the mortgagor, GDO, INC. on or before the date of the sale, to-wit: May 15, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in room 100 of the Supreme Court of the County of Kings, State of New York, at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. 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Ed Weintrob / We were softer then, but not for long

The first issues of The Brooklyn Paper, back in 1978, were nothing like today's.

I was looking for an opening in Brooklyn's newspaper market and found one Downtown, where no weekly publication served the area's tens of thousands of office workers (daytimers, we called them, living in various Brooklyn neighborhoods). We figured we'd leave residents of the 'hoods nearest Downtown to the existing publications.

Our product was "soft," featurey but not fluffy. Even so we ran

into some trouble right away. Our first edition featured a roundup of lunch spots — since our readers left the area at 5 o'clock, lunch was the big deal. In an otherwise complimentary review of Capulet's on Montague Street, our critic mentioned that the wait for service at lunchtime was a long one. The proprietor was displeased.

Fortunately, others were happier. A Montague Street retailer knew exactly which day The Paper came out — around noon, office workers would be beginning showing up with his ad in hand.



women. When "9 to 5" came out, it was the movie in which Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton play a trio of office workers who wreak revenge on their (male) boss. Features Editor Laurie Brockway

took some secretaries to the movie and chatted over coffee afterward. We'd hand flowers to arriving office workers on National Secretaries Day in April and we sponsored a Best Secretary Contest, which generated a tremendous response.

Giving out free flowers was great in cementing our good relations with Downtown's gatekeepers, but it compounded a challenge particular to that period.

Two things coincided with The Paper's launch. First, within a few weeks, the

city's daily newspapers were closed by a lengthy strike, and some people assumed we were a temporary "strike" paper. (In those days, New Yorkers were so desperate to read a newspaper every day that when the dailies would be struck shut, which happened with some frequency, entrepreneurs would start "strike" papers, employing some of the strikers and giving readers their daily fix. One publisher, an old acquaintance operating on the tightest of budgets, borrowed time on our typesetting equipment; when the Pope died on

deadline, their cover featured a picture of the pontiff and this headline: "Pope dies, details tomorrow.") The second thing involved the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, self-proclaimed Korean messiah, right-wing political aspirant and cult-leader whose legions were dispatched throughout the city distributing Moon's literature — and flowers.

We were the first major "free" newspaper in Brooklyn, and many people didn't understand the concept — how do we make money, giving it away? In our first weeks, as we offered Papers to passersby,

more than a handful wouldn't stop, thinking us "Moonies." The free concept, however, was destined for widespread acceptance, and it now dominates the weekly newspaper business — there are even several free dailies, though not in New York. Acceptance did not come overnight; getting there required creativity and determination. Sublimeness, really.

Meanwhile, our featurey and Downtown-centric approach lasted about two months. More on that in a future column. EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com

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• 1 Hour Massage
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Cabby jacks another's taxi

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A cabdriver was cruising for a lootin' on May 1.

The cabby, 43, told police that he was driving on the Prospect Expressway shortly before 6 am when another yellow cab ran into his bumper.

The victim pulled off the expressway onto Hamilton Avenue at 15th Street to exchange information but the swap turned out to be a little more than he bargained for.

The robber got out of his own cab and into the victim's yellow 2003 Ford Crown Victoria and drove off. The car he left behind turned out to be stolen.

Clean fight

An argument inside a building on Third Avenue, between Saint Marks Place and Warren Street, erupted into violence and an assault with cleaning solvents.

According to police, on April 27, at 5 pm, an argument between two women broke out into fistfights. When another woman, 25, attempted to break it up she was struck with a stick about the arms and chest. The 19-year-old woman involved in the original dispute told police that the assailant then splashed cleaning solvent in her eyes.

Both women were taken for medical treatment.

Identity thief

A Park Slope man entered the 78th Precinct at 7 pm on May 1 with a handful of unap-

POLICE BLOTTER

proved credit card charges.

According to police, a thief got hold of the 29-year-old victim's Social Security number, sometime between March 14 and May 1, and used it to open a credit card account. The thief then racked up \$1,927 in charges — not to mention a few criminal charges — for his ill-gotten computer equipment.

Airbagged

Sometime between 7 am on April 29 and 7 am on May 1, someone broke into a 1994 Dodge Caravan and raided the vehicle of its airbags.

The victim, 48, said he parked the car on Second Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, where the thief smashed a passenger-side window and tore open the dashboard and steering wheel. The bags were reportedly valued at \$2,000.

Gang mugs teen

A gang of teenagers was accused of foul play in Prospect Park off Ninth Street and Prospect Park West.

Police said the group robbed a boy, threatening him with a baseball bat at 10 pm on May 2. According to police, one 14-year-old suspect threatened the victim, also 14, with the bat while an accomplice, 16, took the boy's necklace and watch.

Another 16-year-old suspect also threatened the boy. A

fourth suspect, 18, waited in the getaway car.

All four were later caught by police.

Motor running

A Bay Ridge man left his car running on Fifth Avenue, between 14th and 15th streets, on April 29, and it ran off with someone else behind the wheel.

The 38-year-old victim said that he parked his 1997 Nissan Pathfinder at 2:30 am for a couple of minutes to run into a nearby grocery store. When he came out of the store, he saw the bandit jump into his car and drive away.

iMac attack

After a 30-year-old woman left her home on Flatbush Avenue, near Dean Street, on April 29, someone broke into her apartment.

The victim said she left her house at 10 am and returned at 7 pm, to find a vent window to her front entrance smashed and her \$2,000 iMac computer missing.

Meet the Writers

Big If by **Mark Costello**
Big If, Big Men
READING / DISCUSSION / SIGNING
Wednesday, May 14th, 7:30 PM
267 Seventh Avenue at Sixth Street
Park Slope (718) 832-9066

Following his debut crime thriller *Big Men*, former federal prosecutor Mark Costello became a 2002 National Book Award finalist for his widely acclaimed second novel *Big If*, a darkly comic riff on anxiety-riddled, security-obsessed contemporary America.

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All events subject to change, so please contact the store to confirm.

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Catholic lay group allowed to return

Associated Press

The ban on a Catholic lay group that addresses the church's sexual scandals has been reversed, Brooklyn, diocese officials said.

Bishop Thomas Daily, leader of the diocese of Brooklyn reversed the ban on Thursday, allowing Voice of the Faithful to meet on church property. For six months, the group had met in a college meeting room, a

Baptist Church and an American Legion Hall.

Voice of the Faithful, was first organized last year in Boston in response to allegations of sex abuse by priests there. Since then, chapters have sprouted across the country.

"We are eager to get back into our parishes," Melissa Gradel, the organization's regional coordinator told The New York Times.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class	9:15-10:45 Vinyasa Open Class
10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class	10:45-12:15 Hatha Open Class
12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class	12:15-2:15 Vinyasa Open Class
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Police shoot "happy" gunman in Fort Greene

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Police shot and killed a man in Fort Greene around 3 a.m. on April 30, after the man fired 17 shots into the air from a semi-automatic weapon.

Floyd Quinones, 28, an ex-convict, was fatally shot in the back by police on Carlton Avenue outside the Walt Whitman Houses after he fired the shots in celebration of a friend's birthday.

According to Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, the officers fired on Quinones after he refused to drop the 9-

millimeter gun.

The investigation of the incident was interrupted twice by gunfire on officers who swooped down on the crime scene. Five of nine shots fired hit a police Emergency Service Unit truck, just missing an officer sitting in the truck, Kelly said.

Those later incidents, one at about 3:30 a.m. and the second half an hour later, brought hundreds of cops into the neighborhood in search of gunmen who investigators believe were firing from high up in the housing complex. Police went door to door and made 20 arrests for outstanding

warrants although no suspects in the shootings were apprehended.

A review of the incident has yet to be concluded, but indications from the police department are that the shooting was justified. This week, Eric Adams, who heads the police, said the 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement, called the shooting and two other police-involved shootings this past week, justified.

The following day, Carlos Lopez, 19, was shot in Bedford-Stuyvesant after police say he gunned another man and a woman was shot, but not fatally, in Crown Heights

after she allegedly cut the throat of a child and then attacked police officers with the knife.

Since the shootings, police have been meeting with community leaders to normalize relations between residents and law enforcement. Several of the gatherings have taken place at the Christian Fellowship Life Center, on Myrtle Avenue between Prince and Navy streets in Fort Greene.

"From hearing some of the concerns and complaints in police-community relations we think there's some room for better interaction between community and police," said

the neighborhood's councilman, James D. Davis, a former police officer, who attended the meetings.

Davis added, "Though [Quinones'] intentions may not have been malicious, if the reports are true you cannot shoot an unlicensed gun in the air in an urban community."

Darnell Canada, president of the Fort Greene Empowerment Organization, a local service organization for the Walt Whitman, Raymond Ingersoll and Farragut housing projects, said the neighborhood is caught in a conundrum between the desire for greater policing and the need

to feel not all residents are suspects.

"There's a lot of people that say, 'We want the police in here,'" he said. "But there's also a lot of folks that say we want change but we don't want our children harassed."

He added, however, that Deputy Inspector Timothy Pearson, commanding officer of the 88th Precinct, and the police department, have been "bending way beyond backwards to come up with solutions to the problems."

Pearson did not return calls for comment.

Tracy Gardner, founder of the Fort Greene Information Exchange and Brooklyn Young Filmmakers, began handing out pocket-sized brochures to youths this week on how to avoid confrontations with law enforcement. They were put together on

recommendations from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

"It seems to me that there needs to be much more community responsibility for policing," Gardner said.

The brochure — with tips on keeping control over one's

emotions and making a complaint if harassed — was distributed to about 30 young people at a party hosted by the information exchange on Friday night.

District Attorney Charles Hynes will investigate the shooting and present his findings to a grand jury.



The developer wants to build an apartment building at 460 Union St., a manufacturing site.

Scale back 460 Union St

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

After facing opposition from community groups, the proposed developers of a residential building at 460 Union St., between Bond and Nevins streets along the canal, are rethinking their plans.

The attorney representing the developers, Chris Wright, told The Brooklyn Papers on Wednesday that the facade and size of the project will go through revisions in an attempt to satisfy community opposition.

"We're trying to work out a compromise with all the community officials," he said. "It will be substantially reduced from the initial proposal."

The site is currently occupied by a 10,000-square-foot former manufacturing building. The applicants, Jim Piskin and Barry Leon, were seeking a variance from the city to build a six-story, 60-unit, apartment building, comprised primarily of multiple bedroom units. The exception from the current zoning is needed because the lot is designated for manufacturing.

A decision as to whether the apartments will be condomini-

ums or rental units has not been made. Wright said, adding that manufacturing in the current building was impossible since much of it is divided into seven parcels by thick, load-bearing stone walls.

Community Board 6 rejected the proposal last year, on the grounds that it was out of context with the surrounding two- and three-story buildings.

"We really would rather see that property stay as it was originally zoned, but if that's not possible and the owner could prove a hardship that's something we would look at," said CB6 Chairman Jerry Armer, adding, "But the building should be with those around it."

Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who is willing to allow housing on the site, opposed the proposal before the Board of Standards and Appeals on April 29 citing the height and facade of the proposed building.

"I'm glad that the building is respected to be more consistent with the character of the community," DeBlasio said this week. "We're looking forward to seeing the new designs."

The new plans are still in development and will come before the Board of Standards and Appeals on June 24.

Sunset Park molester nabbed for boy sex

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A known sex offender in Sunset Park was arrested this week for picking up boys at a local video store and luring them back to his 49th Street apartment.

Martin Fairhurst, 26, was charged with sodomizing four young boys, ages 11 to 14, police said.

Fairhurst allegedly frequented a video store on Eighth Avenue at 46th Street and attracted the boys' attention by providing quarters for the store's video games.

He then brought the four boys back to his apartment where he showed them photographs of naked pre-teen boys and videotapes of men and women having sexual intercourse before sodomizing the boys, according to the criminal complaint.

The incidents occurred between March 17 and April 6.

"It was very, very atypical for the neighborhood. Everybody was just stunned and shocked and appalled," said Ian Ruiz, who also lives

across the street from the video store and is an aide to Sunset Park Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez.

"We're a community of working families. We take pride in living here," said Ruiz, a native of Sunset Park. "Hopefully this was an isolated incident."

Fairhurst, who is listed on the lifetime sexual offender registry, got out of jail two years ago after serving four and a half years for fondling a 7-year-old boy in 1996. He was paroled on March 17, 2000 and was sent back to prison on June 21 of that year after he failed to appear for a mandatory counseling session.

He is now being charged with multiple counts of: sexual misconduct, sodomy in the first degree, sodomy in the second degree, endangering the welfare of a child, possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child and possessing a sexual performance by a child.

Fairhurst is described as 5-foot-7, with blonde hair, blue eyes, and scars on his right and left wrists and a tattoo on his right upper arm.

The judge set bail at \$200,000 and Fairhurst is still being held in custody.

Civics fill slots on local community boards

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Half of all the community board members in the borough were up for either reappointment or replacement at the end of March and the borough president this week released the new list.

In Community Board 2, 6 and 7, there are 23 incoming members chosen by Borough President Markowitz and the appropriate City Council members.

"Our community boards are the backbone of Brooklyn," Markowitz said.

Borough Hall declined to provide information about the particular appointees.

Joining Community Board 2, which covers Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Clinton Hill and Fort Greene, are Markowitz appointees Andrew Lastowewsky, Erika Davis, Barbara Smith-Boyd, Lenise Singletary, Nioka Young and Ann Lowenthal. Councilman David Yassky appointed Rachel Foster.

They replace Maribel Agosta, Franklin Forbes, Tyler Hemingway, Sandy Holmes DeShong, George Kowalsky, Barbara Roy and Sheila Susskind plus one vacancy. Sunset Park-Red Hook Councilwoman Sam Gonzalez still has one seat to fill on the board.

Foster, who was raised in Park Slope, and graduated from Brooklyn Friends School and later from Brooklyn Law School, spent six years working at South Brooklyn Legal Services dealing with issues related to housing and foster care. She lives in Brooklyn Heights and serves on the boards of South Brooklyn Legal Services and the Citizens Committee for Children, in Manhattan.

"I have a deep commitment to this district," she said this week. "I think it's an exciting opportunity to address the needs of the community while we're in a time of hopefully great economic growth in this area."

Downtown Brooklyn is currently bracing for a \$100 million rezoning plan to develop its residential, retail and commercial potential, in addition to other massive projects such as the BAM Cultural District and the Brooklyn Bridge Park project.

The borough president appoints to CB6, which covers Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill,

Gowanus and Park Slope, were Devin Cohen and David Nachman. Yassky appointed Tanka Barnett. Gonzalez, a former chairwoman of CB7, appointed Yvonne Girala and Loui Sones.

Sones, a Red Hook resident, represents a particularly interesting choice given his opposition to projects that passed CB6 over-whelmingly, such as the Fairway planned for Van Brunt Street. The board traditionally stands in favor of protecting manufacturing in the area, and Sones has been a staunch advocate for housing. He has also been active with Red Hook Group Against Garbage.

"What I look for in a candidate is commitment to the community, the ability to volunteer hours for the work expertise in some vital area to the community and demographic diversity," Gonzalez said through an aide.

Sones said his first order of business would be "to advocate for more diversified housing on all income levels."

"We're a very diverse community racially and I'd like to see it become more economically diverse," he said.

Board members Helen Henkin, a 25-year veteran of community boards and Antonio Marston both left the board, as did Dolly Williams, who was elevated as Markowitz's appointment to the City Planning Commission, creating the vacancies. Longtime Cob-

ble Hill activist Carl Peek died this year, creating another. Two other slots were already vacant and one, a Gonzalez seat, remains vacant.

In Community Board 7, covering Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace, Gonzalez appointed Yvonne Pagan-Falcon, Angel Lopez, Kathleen DeRiso, Leonard Lofes, Betty Lee, Maria Dominguez-Morales and Ivan Perez, who last year lost the race to replace the disgraced former councilman, Angel Rodriguez, as district leader to George Martinez.

Markowitz appointed Richard Guay, Paige Sayle, Marty Raymond and Susan Wipper-Venetsky.

They replace Ramon Acevedo, Jack Deacon, Susan Mammolito, Avelia Rivera, Helen Sokolowski, John Toledo, Dominick Massa and Alice Montalbo, as well as Gonzalez and two vacancies.

Wipper-Venetsky, a resident of Windsor Terrace and founder of the Firefighters' Appreciation Committee as well as the former president of the PS 154 PTA, has been highly visible in recent months protesting firehouse closings. Engle 278, on Seventh Avenue at 50th Street, is among the eight slated for closure by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"I think the first order of business should definitely be to let the community know that the closing of any firehouses is a losing proposition to the community they serve," she said.

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Before

After

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Clarification

Last week, The Brooklyn Papers reported that our photographer Tom Callan was awarded \$100 by the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation for his photograph of the seal found at the Port of New York Green Terminal in Red Hook. In addition to the award that was given to Callan, John Quadrozzi, president of the Gowanus Industrial Park, was also given a \$100 reward for discovering the seal on his property.

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Maimonides eases pain of hernias

Laparoscopic surgery results in less surgical pain, quicker recovery

Maimonides Medical Center

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, five million Americans suffer with abdominal hernias.

At present, the only effective treatment for hernias is surgery.

For most patients, this involves a traditional surgical approach with a large incision and a significant level of pain and discomfort.

At Maimonides Medical Center's Minimally Invasive and Laparoscopic Surgery (MILS) Center, however, patients are now benefiting from the latest in abdominal hernia surgical techniques performed by superbly trained physicians, led by Celia Divino, MD, Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

"A hernia does not get better over time, nor will it go away by itself," said Divino.

"Maimonides is one of a select few hospitals in the region of offering a less invasive surgical technique designed to treat painful hernias."

A hernia occurs when the layers of the abdomen weaken, resulting in a bulge or tear. Through the weakened area, a small sac forms in which intestine or tissue can push through.

There are several types of hernias, and the symptoms can vary.

Now, virtually every abdominal procedure, including those a host of hernias, can be performed laparoscopically. At Maimonides, a full third of all abdominal surgical procedures are now performed by surgeons trained in minimally invasive technology.

Laparoscopic hernia repair is less invasive than the traditional "open" method of repairing a hernia.

A small telescope is linked to

a special camera that is then inserted inside the abdomen. This allows the doctor to see the hernia on a monitor. Three or four other small incisions are made so the doctor can insert specialized instruments into the body to repair the hernia.

This relatively new, minimally invasive approach to hernia surgery allows surgeons to be more precise while doing away with large incisions—eliminating much of the pain

and recovery time for patients and leaving patients with much smaller scars. Recent studies also suggest that repairing hernias laparoscopically also greatly reduces the rate of recurrence.

According to Divino, post-operative pain is minimal and easily relieved with pain medications prescribed upon discharge. Patients are generally kept overnight and can expect to return to work after about two weeks, although it may take four weeks or longer for jobs that require heavy lifting or exertion.

Laparoscopic hernia surgery is yet another innovation that Divino has brought to Maimonides since her arrival and subsequent addition of the MILS Center.

"Just like any new technique, a learning curve exists for laparoscopic surgeries," said Divino. "Education has been supplemented by increased supervision and mentoring as well as ongoing training courses."

We ensure that proper standards of care are met through credentialing in advanced laparoscopic techniques, and we are making full use of teleconferencing, which is a critical tool in assuring that our surgeons are kept up-to-date on innovations in the field."

The Minimally Invasive and Laparoscopic Surgery Center of Brooklyn, based at Maimonides, is a leader in the "laparoscopic revolution." Patients with a wide range of conditions that require surgical treatment enjoy the benefits of minimally invasive surgery.

For more information on services and treatment options at the Minimally Invasive and Laparoscopic Surgery Center at Maimonides, the general public can call (718) 283-8860.

Stroke Alert Day at Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital will provide free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings during Stroke Alert Day on Wednesday, May 21 from 10 am to 1 pm.

The event will take place in the Hospital's Medical Office Pavilion, located at 263 Seventh Ave., between Fifth and Sixth streets, in Park Slope.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a major cause of disability in the United States.

In the last few years, treatments have become available that have made it possible to reverse stroke in some cases. "New, highly effective treatments require a quick response to stroke. We hope that by hosting Stroke Alert Day we will spread the word about the steps to take when stroke symptoms occur," said Miran Salgado, MD, chief of neurology and director of the stroke program at Methodist.

The event is part of a nationwide campaign launched by the American Heart Association to raise awareness about stroke.

Stroke Alert Day coincides with the designation of Methodist as one of seven centers in Brooklyn to take part in a stroke care initiative launched by the New York State Department of Health.

The hospital was selected because it has a multidisciplinary stroke team available 24 hours, seven days a week, and a dedicated stroke care unit.

In order to be recognized as an acute stroke center by the New York State Department of Health, hospitals must meet specific criteria," explained Salgado. "These include an evaluation by a credentialed stroke team within 15 minutes of the patient's arrival, and rapid transport to a tertiary care center for blood work and brain CAT scans. The goal is to have all the results and to administer appropriate medication—which

can reverse stroke in some cases—within one hour of the patient's arrival."

The Emergency Medical system operated by the New York City Fire Department has been instructed to send patients with symptoms of acute stroke and who can be treated within the three-hour window to one of the designated centers for stroke treatment.

If this pilot program is successful, it will be extended to more hospitals in New York State.

"Treating patients with stroke as quickly as possible is critical for successful outcomes and we are very pleased to offer this service," said Steven Silber, DO, vice chair-

man of emergency medicine at Methodist.

For more information about Stroke Alert Day at Methodist, call the Department of Public Affairs at (718) 780-5367.

For a referral to a physician or for more information about New York Methodist Hospital's Institute for Neurosciences, call (866) 366-3876.

Victory Memorial fair

Victory Memorial Hospital

As part of its Community Outreach Program, Victory Memorial Hospital recently held its annual Health Fair at the St. Patrick's Church auditorium, located at Fourth Avenue and 97th Street.

A steady stream of

parishioners and other local residents availed themselves of such free services as blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings as well as the Pulmonary Function Test for detection of any respiratory infections and asthma.

Healthcare professionals were on hand during the

four-hour Fair to answer questions on such topics as physical medicine and rehabilitation, nutrition and skilled nursing services.

Visitors were also encouraged to accept pertinent literature to share with their families and enjoy fresh fruit, beverages and other refreshments.

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State and city comptrollers and honored bizmen at Dem dinner



Councilman David Weprin, Steve Cohn, secretary of the Kings County Democratic Committee, and city Comptroller Bill Thompson.



Assemblyman Clarence Norman, chairman of Brooklyn Democrats; district leader Joseph Bova, and state Comptroller Alan Hevis at the Marriott.



Councilman Erick Martin, district leader Ralph Peretto and honoree Herberto Santiago, Jr.



Honoree Joe Chirico with party chairman Clarence Norman.

ANOTHER JUDGE...

Continued from page 1

not return calls this week seeking comment, but last June, he likened the investigation of his client and the Brooklyn judiciary, in general, to a witch-hunt.

"It's likely that people involved in this process were caught up in this frenzy involving Brooklyn judges," Gentile said last year, as crooked Supreme Court Judge Victor Barron commanded a great deal of media attention.

Gerald Stern, administrator of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, responded that the hearings began in September, months before Barron was indicted, and that Mason moved the funds between his escrow and personal checking accounts, which indicated a serious breach in ethics.

"You're dealing with escrow funds in the first instance that were given to him by his own personal funds," Stern said. "These are matters pertaining to ethics, not a landlord-tenant dispute."

The commission's report came on the heels of the reassignments of two other Brooklyn Supreme judges, Richard Huttner and Edward Rappaport.

UNDER REVIEW...

Continued from page 1

dozens of phone calls to the hotline but certainly not all of them about Judge Garson."

The calls, Bookstaver said, "are being looked into."

"We encourage people, if they feel there's an impropriety, to use the hotline," he added. "Sometimes it just requires an explanation. Sometimes it requires further investigation."

On April 23, Garson, a former treasurer for the Kings County Democratic Committee, was arrested on charges that he, along with six accomplices, fixed divorce cases for a fee.

Also charged in the case are: Nissim Elman, who prosecutors say brokered Garson's verdicts; Paul Siminovsky, who allegedly bribed the judge on behalf of clients; Abraham Levi, who allegedly paid over \$10,000 to Elman to secure the desired outcome of his divorce case; court officer Louis Salerno, who allegedly routed cases to Garson; and Rabbi Ezra Zafrani, who with his daughter, Esther Weinstein, allegedly planned to bribe the judge to secure custody for West of her child.

Hynes was tipped off to the case by a woman who was left without alimony or custody of her 11-year-old daughter in a divorce case adjudicated by Garson. She complained that Garson had made up his mind about her custody case before it had even gone to trial.

The grand jury had not handed down an indictment against Garson.

While the Office of Court Administration was busy this week looking at Garson's record as a judge others were shocked, and recalled a hard-working jurist who came up with imaginative solutions to sensitive problems.

"In general he was a hardworking judge who knew his work, tried cases and worked hard," said one Court Street lawyer who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Among the most noteworthy decisions

Huttner was censured for partaking in litigation involving his Manhattan housing cooperative, and published reports stated that Rappaport was being investigated by the Commission on Judicial Conduct for failing to report knowledge of Barron's alleged bribe solicitation.

According to the Daily News, eight Brooklyn judges have been under investigation by the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Last week, District Attorney Charles Hynes announced that he had convened a grand jury to investigate how judges are selected in the borough, a process controlled by the Kings County Democratic Committee.

That came on the heels of two Brooklyn Supreme judges being charged with corruption in the past 16 months. In January 2001, Barron was indicted on bribery charges and last week, Judge Gerald Garson was arrested for allegedly fixing divorce cases for a price.

Barron copped a plea last year in exchange for a sentence of three to nine years in prison. Garson is charged with a felony in 16 months, the process has been under fire from all angles.

District Attorney Charles Hynes called the judicial selection process "a sham" and convened a grand jury to investigate the procedure.

After being confronted with the evidence against him, Garson reportedly wrote a wire to meetings with county Democratic leaders to discuss elevating friends to judgeships for a fee. Published reports have said at least one of those meetings was with Batra.

While Batra declined to comment, his attorney, Randy Mastro, a deputy mayor under Rudy Giuliani, told The Brooklyn Papers, "Mr. Batra recalls having met with Judge Garson several weeks ago and having a conversation that he recalls was uneventful and unremarkable.... [He] certainly didn't discuss with Judge Garson, or anyone else, anything untoward."

He said that Batra has not been called to meet with the grand jury.

Asked if the grand jury probe has implicated members of the screening panel, Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer declined to discuss the investigation. Findings, however, may be only a couple of weeks away.

Some members of the panel, appointed by the chairman of the Brooklyn and Staten Island Democratic parties, were too allied to the party, according to Brooklyn Democratic reformers.

Alan Fleishman, one of the most outspoken advocates for reform, who is a state committee member from the 52nd Assembly District of Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights, said the resignations of Farkas and Kamins were a sign that the screening panel "was on its last legs."

Remaining members of the panel include Karp, Bruce Belcher, Martin Edelstein, Roger Adler, John Giulino, Trevor Headley, Sanford Rubenstein and Luther Williams.

Reformers have circulated a letter seeking support for a plan to scrap the screening panel in favor of a new committee, appointed by district leaders, and comprised of academics, bar association members and public interest lawyers. The screening committee could then produce three judges for each vacancy.

Instead of being handed a slate selected by party leaders — and the district leaders could vote on endorsements.

The letter has so far been signed by Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Rep. Major Owens, Brooklyn Heights state Sen. Martin Corcoran, Park Slope Assemblyman Jim Breman, Brooklyn Heights Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Fort Greene Councilwoman Janice Davis, Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky and eight district leaders.

The letter was written by Fleishman and Liz Daly, the female district leader for the 52nd AD.

State committee members requested, and were verbally notified of, the makeup of the screening panel in early March. The panel was also broadened to include four women and two Hispanics, after requests for greater diversity.

The new members are Patricia Ann Taylor and Manuel Ortega, appointed by the Staten Island county leader, Assemblyman John Lavelle. Norman appointed Helene Blank, Lisa Lashley, Elena Makau and Manuel Romero.

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QUIT...

Continued from page 1

dacy for Supreme Court to the chairman of the screening panel, Jerome Karp, and to Norman, in a letter dated Jan. 10, and has asked for "the rules, procedures and criteria of the committee." Four months later, an interview was scheduled — then cancelled to accommodate her request — but the criteria has not yet been provided.

"What I have been looking for in a candidate for Supreme Court may not be the same qualifications that other people have," Farkas said. "I don't believe that party loyalty, carrying petitions and putting in 10, 15 or 20 years as a party stalwart is necessarily a qualification to be a judge."

Kamins, who last year defended former Supreme Court Judge Victor Barron, who pleaded guilty to bribery, did not return calls for comment.

The screening panel, stacked with Kings County Democratic Committee allies including Ravi Batra, a law partner of Norman, has been the center of criticism focused on the process.

Since the arrest last week of Justice Gerald Garson for bribery, the second Brooklyn Supreme Court judge to be charged with a felony in 16 months, the process has been under fire from all angles.

District Attorney Charles Hynes called the judicial selection process "a sham" and convened a grand jury to investigate the procedure.

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Dems won't get fundraiser cash

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

Patrons of a \$300-a-ticket fundraiser for the Brooklyn Democratic Party, particularly insurgent members, may want their money back when they come up for re-election.

The proceeds from Thursday's annual dinner for the Kings County Democratic Committee actually went to another organization, known as the "Brooklyn Democrats."

The Kings County Democratic Committee is only permitted to use its funds for general elections and housekeeping, but the Brooklyn Democrats is a political action committee, which means the money could be used in primaries.

Given the list of dissidents confronting the party organization this year, some said it was conceivable that the party leader, Assemblyman Clarence Norman, could seek some payback.

The county dinner, after all, was greeted with a protest, organized by state committee members Alan Fleishman and Liz Daly, to urge Norman to sign on to a letter

pushing for reforms in the way judges are selected in Brooklyn. Several elected officials, such as Councilmen David Yassky and Bill DeBlasio attended the demonstration.

"It would not surprise me if the county leadership did not support people who signed the letter," said Yassky, one of the elected officials to sign on to the letter early.

The party, however, could go one step further and fund campaigns against those who've been a thorn in county's side with the money raised on Thursday night, said the former state Senate minority leader, Brooklyn Heights state Sen. Martin Corcoran.

"It could be used against them and they had the temerity to put [Fleishman and Daly's] names on the invitation," Corcoran, one of the state's top election lawyers, said incredulously.

"The county dinner for the last seven or eight years went to Kings County Democratic Party Committee," Corcoran said. "Certainly this new group, the Brooklyn Democrats, hijacked the county dinner."

Corcoran subsequently skipped

the dinner and held his own shadow event.

Asked about the fundraiser, Norman, chairman of the Kings County Democratic Committee, said new federal election rules transformed the way money could be given to elections and necessitated the organization to "reactivate" the political action committee known as the Brooklyn Democrats.

"We don't punish members of our executive committee," he told The Brooklyn Papers. "We may agree. We may disagree. There's discussion, there's no punishment. This is not the criminal justice system."

Specifics about the functioning of the organization, its officers and the federal laws that necessitated the change were referred to the executive director of the party, Jeffrey Feldman, who could not be reached for comment by press time.

"It's not kosher," said Fleishman.

"My name was on the invitation and I am not an officer of the Brooklyn Democrats. I am an officer of the Kings County Democratic Committee."

Department of Education Seeks Parent Coordinators for New York City Public Schools

The Department of Education is currently accepting applications for the position of Parent Coordinator. Parent Coordinators will play a central role in building a strong and productive partnership between parents and schools by improving outreach to parents, increasing parent engagement, and creating a more parent-friendly environment in schools.

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- Minimum Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree and two years of experience in community work in an area related to the duties of the Parent Coordinator or Associate degree or educational equivalent and four years of related community work are preferred; or high school diploma and six years of related community work.
- Preferred Additional Qualifications:** familiarity with the New York City public school system; experience working with families and parents in education and/or community issues; excellent communication skills; bilingual; and organizational, interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

For a detailed job description and application form, please visit the Department of Education website at www.nycenet.edu. You may also obtain a job description and application from the principal's office in your local school.

Applications are due no later than May 23.

A FAIR AND OPEN TAX PROCESS

New York City is required to hold public hearings on just about everything except the decision to **raise your taxes**. Maybe that's why our city is one of the highest taxed in the country. Maybe that's why property owners will be paying twenty percent more this July 1st than they did just one year ago. If the city must hold a public hearing to change the name of a street, shouldn't there be **A FAIR AND OPEN TAX PROCESS** when the city decides to take your hard-earned money out of your pocket by raising real estate taxes?

To ensure that there is **A FAIR AND OPEN TAX PROCESS** in New York City, we urge the newly formed Charter Revision Commission to incorporate Council Member Tony Avella's idea to require a public hearing in each borough before the city can ask you to pay more.

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EAGLE...

Continued from page 1

mine worth exploring. We might even discover that the great mistake of 1898, when Brooklyn went from a city to a borough, could be overturned."

In a Jan. 1, 1898, story headlined, "Farewell to City, Hail to Borough," the Eagle chronicled Brooklyn's passage from city to borough.

Six of Brooklyn's former mayors attended a reception hosted by Brooklyn's last mayor, Frederick Wyckoff.

"The city of Brooklyn may have passed away," it was written. "But that civic pride which characterized it was inspired by the reception that took place at the mayor's office. It cropped out on every side and through the tremendous assemblage at the City Hall could hardly have been said to have been merry, it was patriotic and ready to appreciate everything that was said in favor of the city that was loved and the borough that would be loved just as the city had been."

And then, too, the issues read as a scrapbook of sorts to the borough's more enduring features and their transformations over time.

In 1861, the opening night of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, then on Montague Street, featured dances of the "Quadrille," "Polka and Esmeralda" and "Lancers," an entertainment, "the Eagle wrote, "of that kind to which the building is chiefly to be devoted." But times have changed, and BAM moved to Fort Greene in 1903 after its original building burned down. In addition, it's been a good while since BAM hosted a polka.

Under the banner "United," the May 24, 1883 edition chronicles the cost, engineering and casualties involved in building the Brooklyn Bridge. The article states, "The general public use marks an enormous stride in the march of American progress, adequately supplies the most pressing wants of the Metropolis and its sister city, and unfolds a prospect for the future dazzling in its brilliant possibilities."

The Eagle was published continuously from 1841 to 1955. It was revived briefly in 1960 as a Sunday newspaper and in 1962-63 as a daily. A note on the Web site states that digitization of the years after 1950 depends on future funding.

SUE SHEEN...

Continued from page 1

it almost three years ago.

Novakovic is also using Sheen, an ardent anti-war activist who plays the president on the NBC television series, "The West Wing."

Novakovic, 36, whose family left Croatia because of political persecution in 1969, wrote "The Lone Mercy" in 1998, and showed it to Sedlar. In 2002, Sedlar directed and produced "Mercy of the Sea," which he was shipping to American film distributors until Novakovic filed suit in November.

Set on the Croatian coast, both "The Lone Mercy" and "Mercy of the Sea" tell the tale of a mother's search for the children she lost during that country's civil war.

Unless the suit is settled out of court, Judge John Martin will determine on May 30 just how similar those two scripts are.

Implicated in the lawsuit are Sedlar, his son, Dominik, who co-directed; Sheen, Sheen's daughter and "West Wing" co-star, Renee Estevez, who co-starred in "Mercy of the Sea"; Sedlar's Sreemkulu, who's involved with film sales; and Barry Morrow, a Hollywood screenwriter who's film credits include "Rain Man."

Judge Martin has barred distribution of the film, which finished shooting last summer, until the copyright issue is settled.

Novakovic says that after showing the script to Sedlar in 1998, he waited for a response. When he called every few months to check in, Novakovic said he was given the runaround. He eventually read of Sedlar's "Mercy of the Sea" in *Gloria* magazine.

"When somebody steals a script they should at least be sure to change the first page," says Novakovic, who claims that Sedlar was so sloppy in his thievery that he forgot to change names, plot lines and entire chunks of dialogue.

Novakovic also says he has a letter from Sedlar in which the filmmaker allegedly states that he "only took about 30 percent of the script."

"That's like stealing a car and returning it with only the wheel and stereo," Novakovic says.

But Sedlar's attorney, Fran Miller, said this week that Novakovic sold the script to her client and signed all his rights away. Miller declined to provide that documentation, noting the pending lawsuit. Novakovic denies that he sold the script.

But despite claiming that her client bought Novakovic's script, Miller added that Sedlar was not admitting that the script was the basis for "Mercy of the Sea."

Miller also declined to comment on who actually wrote the script. According to the film industry Web site *ind.com*, Morrow was the screenwriter for "Mercy of the Sea."

Sheen and Estevez's attorney, Barry Langberg, a partner at Strock & Strock & Lavan, also proclaimed his clients' innocence when contacted at his office in Los Angeles this week.

"They're named in the lawsuit for publicity purposes. They don't have anything to do with any wrongdoing," said Langberg, adding that his clients had no role in the sale or distribution of the film.

Sheen, 62, a vocal opponent of his real-life counterpart, President Bush, and the Iraq war, was reportedly served court papers on the White House set of the "West Wing." An avid activist, Sheen has been arrested more than 70 times for protesting causes ranging from war to homelessness.

"He promotes himself as the champion of the downmod," said Novakovic, adding that he's been disappointed in Sheen's lack of response.

Born Karmen Estevez, in Dayton, Ohio, in 1940, the actor moved to California and changed his name to Sheen to avoid Hollywood typecasting. He eventually got his big break when he landed a role as a serial killer and garbage collector in the nihilistic thriller "Badlands" (1973) alongside Sissy Spacek. He went on to make dozens of major films including "Apocalypse Now" (1979) before landing his role on "West Wing."

Aside from a bit part as a bartender in the 1995 "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" Williams drama "Awakenings," Novakovic entered the industry a decade ago with a film he made as a graduate student at Columbia University.

"Are They Still Shooting?" (1995) is a drama about two brothers, one fighting on the frontlines in Bosnia and Croatia and the other fighting his own battles on the streets of New York City, earned Novakovic accolades from writer and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

So it is no surprise that when Novakovic, whose favorite films include 1988's art-house classic "Cinema Paradiso" and Federico Fellini's "8 1/2," was flown out to Los Angeles and asked to do a sequel to "Pretty Woman," he turned the studio down, checked out of his Beverly Hills hotel and walked away from Tinseltown.

Hollywood, he said, was decidedly not for him.

Before moving to Park Slope last year with his wife, Alejandra, a painter and flamenco dancer whom he met while working in Buenos Aires, Novakovic was happily ensconced in his Tribeca apartment. But after the World Trade Center attacks, an event he witnessed from his living room window, the screenwriter moved to Brooklyn, a place where, he says, he can see the open sky without getting a crack in his neck.

Now Novakovic, who is finishing another screenplay, is looking forward to putting the battle over his screenplay behind him and getting on with other projects.

"I'm not going to make a career out of being a victim," he said, adding that he hopes that this lawsuit will make others think twice about stealing a writer's work.

FIREHOUSE...

Continued from page 1

Among the firehouses Bloomberg will close are Engine Company 204 in Cobble Hill, on Degraw Street between Court and Smith streets, and Engine Company 278 in Sunset Park, on Seventh Avenue at 50th Street.

Elected officials were irate after their suspicion that the panel was little more than a smoke screen was confirmed by two of its own.

"The commission did not even visit the neighborhoods that would be affected by the threatened closings," said Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio in a statement. "We will continue to fight the mayor's decision with every tool available to us."

During a budget modification late last year, the mayor proposed closing the firehouses to save \$10.3 million.

To counter Bloomberg's proposal the City Council agreed to convene a blue-ribbon commission with the mayor to investigate how best to deal with the necessary cuts. The seven-member panel was composed of three representatives from the Fire Department, two Bloomberg appointees and two Miller appointees.

Besides Corbett and Fellini the panel included Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, who serves at the discretion of the mayor; Chief of Department Frank Crothers and Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano, both appointed by Scoppetta. The mayor's appointees were Stanley Breznoff, a former deputy mayor in the Koch administration and the CEO of Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park; and Geoffrey Canada, CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone.

Both Corbett and Fellini said they made alternative suggestions to generate revenue such as fee-based inspections for high-risk buildings, a top-to-bottom review of inefficient procedures and an expansion of the Emergency Medical Service.

"The level of scrutiny that should have been put into this didn't happen," Corbett said.

Throughout the process council members protested repeated indications from the Bloomberg administration that the city did not intend to seriously consider other options. Deputy Mayor Marc Shaw publicly called the agreement to form the panel a "political ploy."

"At that point everyone knew it was a sham," Stephen Cassidy, president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, told the committee. "It was hoped that the panel's meetings would be open to the public and that they would do their jobs as was initially agreed to. This was only wishful thinking."

The testimony of Corbett and Fellini was preceded by a speech by Scoppetta who said that despite receiving \$2.7 billion in aid from Albany the eight firehouses would still close, as soon as May 25.

The state aid package did, however, spare 40 firehouses that Bloomberg threatened with closure in his "doomsday budget."

Nabes vs. another Windsor high-rise

By Patrick Gallaheue

The Brooklyn Papers

It's deja vous all over again.

Another building in Windsor Terrace, decreed by some local residents as too tall, has many of the same proponents and opponents as another that rose in the neighborhood three years ago.

The applicants, calling themselves 1101 Prospect Avenue LLC, are seeking a variance to build a six-story, 48-unit condominium on a site that currently holds a one-story auto service garage.

The architect is Bricolage Designs, which in 2000 created another high-rise building in the neighborhood, at 107 Prospect Park Southwest.

Then as now Windsor Terrace Assemblyman Jim Brennan is mobilizing opposition to the plan.

"There is a consensus in Windsor Terrace that we'd like small-scale development when possible," Brennan told The Brooklyn Papers. "And we don't think there would be any hardship to the developer to comply with the zoning."

The developers are seeking a variance to build above the neighborhood's R5B zoning, which only allows up to four stories, with 19 units, Brennan said.

But Stuart Beckerman, an attorney representing the developers, believes the new project is in scale with the area. "We believe that the project will be compatible



Garage at Prospect and 11th avenues where a developer wants to build a six-story condominium.

with what's there," he said. "Right now you have a non-conforming commercial use and that will be replaced."

There are other buildings within a couple of blocks that are of similar height," he added of the 67-foot building proposed for the corner of Prospect and 11th avenues.

The area, which is largely low-scale, does have some big buildings, constructed before the zoning was in place.

That, however, has done little to quell critical neighbors.

"Most of the buildings around here are two and three stories," said Amanda Cicarello, a resident of Prospect Avenue, between 10th and 11th avenues. "Six stories, I think, is ridiculously out of scale."

The building which will have a range of units from studio to two-bedroom, would include 38 parking spaces. The proposal will come be-

fore Community Board 7's Land Use committee for a public hearing on May 12 at 6:30 pm, in the basement of the Holy Name Church Rectory, at 245 Prospect Park West.

After the community board makes its recommendation the proposal will go to the Board of Standards and Appeals, which has final say over the project.

The Windsor Terrace community unsuccessfully fought plans for a six-story condominium at 107 Prospect Park Southwest in 2000.

The building faced a bevy of opposition ranging from a failed lawsuit to a burglar, who broke into the building in 2001 and turned on one of the taps, letting the water run for 12 hours and flooding the shell of the building.

The project was ultimately completed and began receiving tenants this year.

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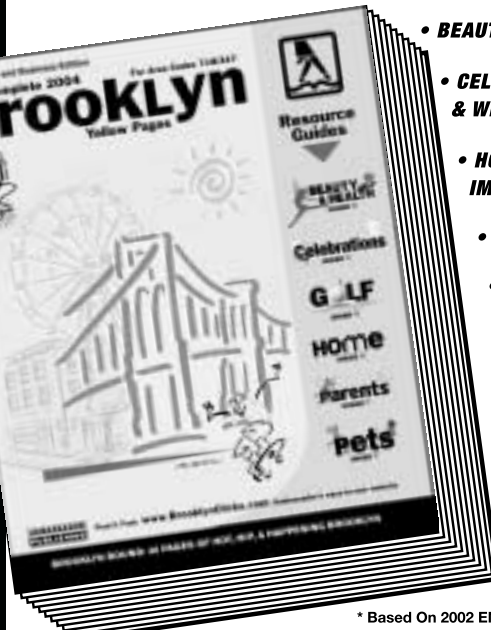
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Take her out for Mother's Day

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • May 12, 2003

Time out for mom

This Mother's Day, surprise her with a trip for two at a day spa

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

This Mother's Day, don't take mom's love for granted. After all, she still loves you unconditionally — despite the fact that you drove up those insurance premiums after your many fender benders in high school, that you moved to New York City after college, despite your huge wedding ... but I digress.

This year, take some time to be with your mother and leave your whirlwind of a life on the other side of the soundproof doors of a day spa. I brought my mom to Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon in Bay Ridge for the "Pilo Day of Beauty," which includes a 55-minute facial, one-hour massage, a manicure and pedicure, haircut and style with a master stylist, makeup application and lunch (\$314).

But my real present to her (and myself) was that I booked the same Day of Beauty package, so I could be right by her side and we could enjoy the day together.

We began in the morning with facials, then massages in private rooms. At Pilo, facials include paraffin hand treatments and incorporate some hot and cold massage stones. Although we both had "signature facials," they were customized for our different needs by our aestheticians Bela and Sara.

Our Swedish massages were also adjusted to our very different specifications. Our massage therapists asked where our aches and pains were and they inquired if we preferred massage cream or oil. (Massage cream is absorbed into the skin, and doesn't require a post-massage shower.) Mom wanted to relax, and Terry offered a massage without beating strokes — only relaxing, de-stressing pressure, said mom.

"When I go to a spa, I go to relax," she



Put her feet up: Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon aesthetician Vogue Gaal with co-owners Paul Pastore and Elena Solitario at one of the salon's luxurious pedicure stations.

said, her newly exfoliated cheeks pink and dewy. "At my age, I don't want anything too energetic."

I requested a deeper tissue massage to work out the sore muscles from our recent SoHo shopping spree. (When mom and I go shopping, I'm the bag lady.) My masseuse, Stuart, worked deep, de-tangling muscles and leaving me with limp-toddle arms that he was ultimately able to swing around like slack string.

Mom and I reunited in the relaxation room, where mothers and daughters can compare notes and enjoy bellinis and a light lunch. Spa-goers also have the option to shower and steam or relax until the next

treatment.

We were pressed for time, so we had lunch delivered to us on clever tables attached to our adjacent leather, massaging pedicure chairs. Shirley and Maggie rescued our battered tootsies, while mom enjoyed a light lady's lunch of tuna salad and I tucked into a giant cheeseburger deluxe (with extra mayo, thank you). I chose bright-red lacquer while mom opted for a subtle beige, with fingers to match.

After her short, sleek locks were styled by Leah Shortall, mom was ready for makeup.

I opted for a precision haircut with Pilo co-owner Paul Pastore, who snipped away with inverted V-cuts to give my long, recently straightened hair a style that had movement, and layers that so perfectly complemented my round face that family members asked if I had lost weight! Pastore also offered much-needed styling tips: blow-drying hair upside down adds extra

volume and applying oil adds extra shine and protects chemically treated hair. He instantly became my hair guru.

After makeup applications by Suzanne Alfonso and Christine Vallaro in the latest spring colors, our eyes literally twinkled with sparkling "eye dust." Mom and I emerged buffed, gleaming and infinitely more glamorous and rested than when we had arrived. And the real luxury of the day: we were finally able to spend time alone with each other.

As I waved goodbye to my mom, who was driving back home to Massachusetts, I felt a pang of sadness. She called the next day to thank me, and said that when she was looking back at me in her rearview mirror, she felt sad, too. I blinked back tears with my sparkling eyelids, and wiped another tear from my moisturized cheek with my perfectly manicured hand and vowed to schedule our next day at the spa.

BEAUTY

The "Pilo Day of Beauty" is \$314 per person with a haircut with a master stylist and \$304 with an artistic stylist at Pilo Arts Day Spa & Salon, 8412 Third Ave. in Bay Ridge. The spa offers gift certificates for any service, package or dollar amount. For more information call (718) 746-7411 or visit www.piloarts.com on the Web.

ART

Hooked on art



Brooklyn Working Artist Coalition's "Pier Show 11 Carnival" opens in Red Hook May 10 (noon to 6 pm) with a reception featuring music by Lovebutton, refreshments and the opportunity to view the diverse artwork of more than 250 artists, including Edward Murr's "Wendy & Friend" (pictured).

The Pier Show hangs in a historic Civil War-era warehouse, overlooking the Statue of Liberty, at 499 Van Brunt St. at Beard Street. On opening day, a free Con Edison shuttle bus will run between the Smith and Ninth streets F train station and the Pier Show.

On May 17, from noon to 5 pm, the BWAC Pier Show will be augmented by the Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival, sponsored by Dance Theater Etcetera. The performing arts festival will bring dance, poetry, food, music and entertainment to the waterfront 'hood.

BWAC's Pier Show is open weekends, from noon to 6 pm, through June 14, when it culminates with a silent auction. Admission is free. For more information, call (718) 596-2507 or visit bwac.org.

— Lisa J. Curtis

DANCE

'Dirt Road' redux

On May 9 and May 10, choreographer Ronald K. Brown's Fort Greene-based company Evidence will perform the New York City premiere of his reconstructed 1994 piece

"Dirt Road." In the lengthy work, Brown (pictured with Essence Magazine's Susan Taylor in October) incorporates hip-hop dance, spoken word and music to portray a family's journey through grief and loss in the 1990s.

"Ronald Brown or- iginally choreographed 'Dirt Road' in 1994, but in the years following, the work had fallen out of the company's repertoire," Maurine Knighton, executive producer of 651 ARTS, told GO Brooklyn. "Given the evolution of Ron's choreographic vocabulary since 1994, both the choreographer and 651 ARTS felt it was important for audiences to experience from whence Ron has come, to better understand his roots as both an artist and as a person."

651 Arts gave Brown a \$10,000 reconstruction grant to re-set "Dirt Road" and add it to the current company repertoire.

An excerpt from Brown's "Destiny" (1998), which blends African and modern dance styles, will also be performed. On May 16 and May 17, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, led by Debbie Blunden-Diggs and Kevin Ward, will perform Brown and Donald McKayle's "Children of the Passage" (1999), as well as Thyestes Dove's "Vespers" (1986), Blunden-Diggs' "In My Father's House" (1997), and the New York premiere of Bebe Miller's 2002 work, "Aerodigm."

Performances begin at 8 pm at the BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$40, \$30 and \$20. For tickets, call (718) 636-4100.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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Akri

2067 Third Ave. at 79th Street, (718) 238-7701 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$25.

Executive Chef Brandon O'Sullivan's restaurant opened Sept. 26 in Bay Ridge and offers pasta, seafood and 100-percent certified Black Angus cuts grilled to perfection. Also offers rich sauces to accompany your steak: garlic butter, brandy cream, wild-mushroom-onion or mixed peppercorn. Appetizers range from classic mozzarella and tomatoes to an "assortment of Greek delights."

Allio

291 Grand St. at Rivington Street, (718) 218-7338 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Tapas: \$5-\$32, most under \$5.65. Mori Ogilby, co-owner of Allio with Amy Beligen, describes the cooking of chef Diego Gonzalez and pastry chef Humberto Sanchez as "traditional Spanish cooking with a more contemporary flavor." Choose from tapas large enough to share or standard-sized entrees such as New Zealand lamb. Allio is romantic with intimate, candlelit dining rooms, local bar scene and outdoor garden.

Alma

187 Columbia St. at Degraw Street, (718) 443-5480 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$18.

While the authentic, "non-Americanized" Mexican food served at Alma is amazing, it is the setting that will take your breath away. One of the multiple gardens, which spans 40, and only if you have Manhattan's skyline at your table. Indoor seating is also available, and the comfortable, rustic, wood interior, handmade chairs and hand-blown glass hanging lamps will make Alma's restaurant a popular destination as well.

Their tamales have been lauded the finest in the city handmade daily in a delicious variety of fish. Fish of the day is often a dish made from soft-shell crabs or scallops. Anchovy, a large poblano pepper stuffed with shredded pork, jalapeno and peppers is a classic. A breast of duck is grilled and served with a roasted potato and tomato sauce with a purpose of sweet potato.

Archives

333 Adams St. at Tillary Street, (718) 222-6543, www.marcopolo.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$32.

Located in the New York Marriot Brooklyn, this spacious restaurant is elegant, with comfortable seating. Archives offers a wide variety of seafood, pasta, poultry, beef and vegetable dishes for every taste. Some entrees by Executive Chef Walter Pomeroy include: seared pasta with grilled chicken and parmesan; halibut with sautéed spinach and

sweet potato fries. Other indulgences at Archives include the Saturday evening "Seafood Extravaganza" and Sunday Champagne brunch.

Bistro St. Marks

76 St. Marks Ave. at Flatbush Avenue, (718) 857-8600 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$20.

Chic, but not overly self-conscious, this Park Slope bistro serves innovative French-American cuisine — diane with Roquefort sauce and watermelon, beef cheeks braised with horseradish, sauce and celery leaves. Excellent selection from European and domestic wines in the \$20-\$26 range. Saturday and Sunday brunch.

Blue Ribbon Brooklyn

200 Fifth Ave. at First Street, (718) 840-0004 (AmEx, MC, Visa) D.O. Entrees: \$8.50-\$32.

Blue Ribbon Brooklyn opens at 6 pm and stays open until 4 am (Sundays through Sundays), featuring wine from around the world and an array of choices at their extensive raw bar. The eclectic menu offers a wide range of choices, from mussel bar soup, escargot bourguignon and sweet sorrelles for appetizers to sweetbread with angula and wild mushrooms, piglet with roasted barley and sweet potato and lobster and corn on the cob for entrees.

Cono & Sons O'Pescatore
301 Graham Ave. at Atlantic Street, (718) 386-0104 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.95-\$29.95.

Your first impression of Cono & Sons O'Pescatore will be a light, airy feeling, evoked by glimmering white tablecloths with napkins sporting lavender, black lacquered chairs and a beautiful tile floor. As the name suggests, this is the place for serious seafood and Italian cuisine enthusiasts.

Signature dishes include the Corstina, a mouthwatering mixture of veal, scallop, beef and chicken, prepared with peppers, mushrooms and potatoes (\$39.99 for two or more); and the tomato & pesto clam, shrimp, mussel, whiting, squid and fillet of sole served with rice (\$39.95, for at least two people). Plenty of offerings, like homemade cannoli, wild chops alla Cono, shrimp fra diavolo and fried scallops. Capaccio and a traditional Italian dessert (cheesecake, sorbet and rose) wrap things up nicely.

Convivium Osteria

68 Fifth Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, (718) 857-8313 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees for one: \$11-\$22, entrees for two: \$42-\$48.

Park Slope's Convivium Osteria, with its other-oriented walls and rough-hewn tables, some communal, has a rustic-Mediterranean feel. Chef and co-owner

Carlo Puliti and chef Charles Giangara have skipped around the Mediterranean combining the flavors of Spain, Portugal and Italy on the Convivium Osteria menu. Among the tapas highlights are the seafood tapas for two, tuna tartare and braised chicken. If there is a culinary award akin to the Oscar, it should go to the chef. So far, he's been nominated. Entrees: Pass on the dessert of grilled prosciutto topped with scallion honey on your own risk. Garden seats available in season.

Gage & Tollner

372 Fulton St. at Jay Street, (718) 875-5181, www.GageandTollner.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14.95-\$26.95.

Gage & Tollner, an atmospheric Brooklyn landmark that dates back to 1879, features artful mirrors, new wall-to-wall coverings and brass, glass chandeliers. Restaurant Joseph Christo took over in 1990, and completely restored the interior to its original splendor. Whether you love a great steak or you're a seafood fan, Gage & Tollner has what you're craving. The old-fashioned, top-notch service. By the time the dessert cart is rolled to your table, you'll be making plans for your next visit. Free valet parking.

Ginkgo Leaf

788A Union St. at Sixth Avenue, (718) 399-9876 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Lunch: \$8-\$15.

Designed by artist Toshio Saeki, Ginkgo Leaf's outdoor garden cafe offers a variety of traditional and traditional Japanese meals. Whether seated near a waterfall or beside the new south bar extension, there is plenty to enjoy at Ginkgo Leaf. The cafe serves obento (bento) at lunch (containing various combinations of shrimp, eel, soup, tempura, garden salad and fresh fruit), as well as a variety of dishes, soups and their specialty, dumplings.

Such chef Yoshi Sano, who is originally from Tokyo, prepares sushi in the traditional style. Edo Max, "Edo-style" sushi, is a specialty. The chef is an expert in preparing everything from traditional Japanese sushi to sushi (Japanese maki), all made in different styles of Japan.

Ginkgo Leaf also offers a Sunday brunch from 11:30 am to 4 pm with a special menu including "chicken, crispy shrimp and a fried 'tuna' bistro."

Grappa Cafe & Restaurant

112 Court St. at State Street, (718) 237-4024 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$21.

Chef Luca Casarelli offers dishes that are lighter and more authentic than the Italian cuisine to which most Americans are accustomed. Popular dishes include

veal artist Karen Gibson and her Rockers and Wild band. \$20 cover charge. 7:30 pm. 647 Fulton St. (646) 391-2018.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC: "The Power of Shakespeare," featuring the American New Music Singers. \$55, \$35, \$20, \$8 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 33 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

PUPPET OPERA: St. Ann's Warehouse presents the first American puppet opera "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, featuring by Kristian Jany. \$40, \$8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 638-2424.

BROOKLYN LULU: presents Improv Jam hosted by Don. \$10, \$5, \$3 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 857-4816.

THEATRE: "Blood Wedding" by Federico Garcia Lorca. \$12, \$10 seniors, \$5 students, 2 and 8 pm. Gateway Theatre, Brooklyn College, one block from Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

MUSICAL: New Utrecht High School presents "Footloose." \$10, \$5 seniors and students, 8 pm. 1601 80th St. (718) 232-2500.

DANCE: "Black Dance: Transition and Transformation" presents "Ronald Brown and Evidence: Dirt Road." \$40, \$20, \$20, 8 pm. BAM, Midway Landing, (718) 624-2023.

HIGHLY PLAYERS: presents "My Fair Lady." \$15, \$12 seniors and children, 8 pm. 26 Willow Pl. (718) 237-2752.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Ches." a musical. \$15, \$12 children and 12 and over and sen-

iors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 975-6547.

UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Drummer Grady Tate performs. \$30 cover plus minimum per seat, 9 and 11 pm and 12:30-3:30 pm. Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: The Manhattan Museum of Art. 9 pm. 70 North 5th St. (718) 782-1188.

BAM CAFE: presents The Blackman and Kirk Nurock. \$10, \$5 seniors and students, 10 pm to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-2325.

TWO BOOTS: Nights Owls perform Latin rhythms. No cover. 10 pm to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-2325.

LOW BAR: presents music with Jamie Weisberg. No cover. 10:30 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

PRE-THESIS FEST: International one-act plays directed by the first year MFA Directors at George Washington Theatre. Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.



Fort Greene Italian restaurant Scoppello, named for the Sicilian fishing village where he spent summers as a child. His voice soared to a purr as he described to GO Brooklyn the dishes made in his kitchen. Photo by Brooklyn Photo Group/Chris O'Neil

Fort Greene gets the boot

In February, Fabrizio Di Miti (above) opened his Fort Greene Italian restaurant Scoppello, named for the Sicilian fishing village where he spent summers as a child. His voice soared to a purr as he described to GO Brooklyn the dishes made in his kitchen. "Abbiu," Di Miti said, "do you know we make our own breads? We make our own focaccia. Most of our pastas are house-made — we make fettuccine, cavatelli, ravioli. We have a very nice salad of smoked herring, blood oranges, black olives and of course, extra virgin olive oil."

Get cozy in Scoppello's orange-walled dining room, and order dishes that celebrate spring: About the Villanella, Di Miti said, "We saute baby artichokes and add fava beans and green peas." And, if you visit on the weekend, try the Burrata for two. This young mozzarella cheese from Puglia is wrapped in asphodel leaves.

It comes fresh from Italy on Fridays," he said. "It's creamy. Very nice. Come in tonight, OK? You'll love it."

Scoppello (63 Lafayette St., between Fulton Street and South Elliot Place) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Pastas: \$11.95. Dinner entrees: \$13.95-\$16.95. For reservations, call (718) 852-1100.

— Tina Barry

Harvest

218 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 624-9292 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$16.

Recent renovations have brightened up this popular American comfort food

eatery, opened six years ago by local resident David Schneider and Pamy Vio. Downtown, you'll find more of a bar scene, with cocktails, beer on tap, and a raw bar with the pleasant sounds of cooking in the background. Upstairs is cozy and family friendly. Don't miss the garden

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

SALES

FLEA MARKET: at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 9 am to 5 pm. 1550 Hendrickson St. (718) 253-4404.

SPRING MARKET: at Greenwood Baptist Church, 10 am to 4 pm. 461 5th St. (718) 768-2486.

PLANT SALE: in time for Mother's Day, Brooklyn Bear's Plant Street Garden hosts a sale. Annuals, perennials and herbs. 10 am to 4 pm. (718) 636-6480.

OUTDOOR MARKET: at Flatbush Reformed Church, 10 am to 4 pm. Flatbush and Church avenues. (718) 284-5140.

BOOK FAIR: Free Unitarian Church hosts its annual event featuring fiction, mystery, romance, sci-fi, history and other types of books. Noon to 4 pm. Corner of Pierpoint Street and Monroe Place. (718) 624-5466.

JEWELRY SALE: Jewelry from Africa, after sundown, 63 South Portland Ave. (718) 855-0214.

OTHER

VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Brooklyn Youth Violence Prevention Coalition hosts

"Silence the Violence," a day of dialogue, education and alternatives to youth violence. 8 am to 5 pm. New York City College of Technology, 300 Jay St. Call to preregister: (718) 802-3960. Free.

BLOOD DRIVE: at St. Philip's Church, 10 am to 3 pm. 1072 5th St. (718) 680-3675.

MEETING: Our Women's League hosts a talk, "Who is Protecting Our Environment and Natural Resources?" 10:30 am. Brooklyn College, room 432, New Ingersoll, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 891-2490. Free.

PIER SHOW: Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition presents the opening reception for its art show. Live music by Loveletter, refreshments and more. Noon to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

ART SHOW: First Unitarian Church hosts an arts festival featuring music, dance, poetry and refreshments. Noon to 4 pm. Corner of Pierpoint Street and Monroe Place. (718) 624-5466. Free.

BOOK MARK SHOPPE: Chef Bill Alfano talks about his book "Cooking in the Comfort Zone." 6 pm. 6905 11th Ave. (718) 680-3680. Free.

SINGLES BRUNCH: Fun-Guru invites singles to a 60 min brunch. \$20, 11 pm. Williamsburg location. Call (917) 292-GURU.

MEETING: AARP Ovington Chapter meets. 1 pm. Bay continued on page 60

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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from page G0 3...
Ridge Center, 635 Fourth Ave.
(718) 748-0050.

BAMCINEMATEK: "The New Films from Slovenia" series presents "Blind Spot" (2002), \$10. 2 and 6:30 pm. Q & A with director Hanna Zak follows. 6:30 pm screening. Also, "Ljubljana" (2002), 4:30 and 9:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 595-2150.

SPEED DATING: Straight singles. Meet 9 to 10 singles for one-on-one dates. 3 pm. Park Slope Food Co-op, 782 Union St. Call for info. (718) 622-0560.

IRRESISTIBLE ATTRACTION: Learn about the laws of attraction, as taught by "Success Coach" Kevin Callaghan. \$30. 4 pm. Dive, 637 Union St. (718) 638-8121.

ART: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents opening of exhibit "But It Doesn't Look Like Me." 421 Fifth Ave. Call for time. (718) 622-0016. Free.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-Ha. \$5. 9 pm. The Boulevard Bar, 273 Smith St. (718) 624-9876.

AUCTION: and music at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church. \$25. 7 to 10 pm. 85 South Oxford St. (718) 625-7515.

SINGLES: Bay Ridge Singles Club hosts "Hawaiian Cafe." \$5. 7:30 pm. Our Lady of Angels Church, 7320 Fourth Ave. (718) 256-3551.

SUN, MAY 11

Mother's Day OUTDOORS AND TOURS
SPRING FLOWER WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk through woods and meadows of Prospect Park. \$11. 9 pm.

bers, 58 seniors and students. 1 to 3 pm. Meet on steps of Tenney House in Prospect Park. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Tour and talk about Greenwood's historical, sociological, architectural, artistic, horticultural and theatrical appeal. \$6. 1 pm. Meet inside main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 35th Street. (718) 469-5277.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: Spring Fest 2003 begins and lasts until Father's Day. Enjoy concerts on the Cherry Esplanade, outdoor poetry readings, film, tours and more. Highlights include a reading of poems for Mother's Day by the Walt Whitman Project and a concert by Toshi Reagon. \$5. 53 seniors and students, free for children 16 and under. 10 am to 5 pm. 1002 Washington Ave. (718) 622-7220.

WILLIAMSBURG WALK: New York Like a Native offers a walk around Brooklyn's most diverse neighborhood. \$15. 2 to 4:30 pm. Call for reservations and meeting place. (718) 393-7537.

CHILDREN
CHINATOWN FOR KIDS: Dr. Phil's New York Talks and Walks invites kids to take a walk through Chinatown. \$8. 11 am. Meet at northwest corner of Bowery and Canal streets. (888) 377-4455.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "The Roots of Spring." \$3. 1:30 and 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 354-4040.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella." 12:30 and 2:30 pm. See Sat.

PERFORMANCES
OPERA: Brooklyn College Opera Theater presents students in scenes and vignettes from

famous operas. 2 pm. Levenson Recital Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500. Free.

LECTURE SERIES: Brooklyn Public Library hosts a series on Jews and the Media. Today: "Jews in Radio." 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Bach and Kurtág. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

CONCERT: St. Jacob's Lutheran Church hosts a concert by the Corona Ensemble for Mother's Day. Music spans classical baroque to American folk. 4 pm. 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

JAZZ: Annette St. John and her Trio perform. \$15 includes champagne. 6:30 and 9:45 pm. Up Over Jazz Cafe, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 998-5413.

HALCYON CAFE: presents music with Amosia Technology. 7 pm to midnight. No cover. 227 Smith St. (718) 260-WAXY.

THEATER: "Blood Wedding." 2 pm. See Sat.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 3 pm. See Sat.

PUPPET OPERA: "The Barber of Seville." 3 pm. See Sat.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters." 3:30 pm. See Sat.

OTHER
SUNDAYS ON MYTLE: Lecture and demo on photography: how to buy it, collect it and frame it. \$15. 4 to 6 pm. Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery, 363 Myrtle Ave. (718) 624-5041.

BAMCINEMATEK: "The New



Historic homes

Be a nosy neighbor—enjoy the Brooklyn Heights Association's annual House and Garden Tour.

The self-guided May 10 tour will take you inside five 19th-century townhouses, including a Victorian brick house with finely carved marble mantles (pictured), from 1 pm to 5 pm.

General admission tickets are \$30 and include the house tour, refreshments at Plymouth Church (and a tour of the sanctuary), while \$200 patron tickets include a champagne brunch, tour of an additional house, an early start on the tour and all general admission perks.

According to BHA Executive Director Judy Stanton, the house tour proceeds are given back to the community—in the form of grants to PS and to the Atlantic Avenue Master Plan process this past year—and also help pay BHA's operating costs and programs including tree maintenance.

"We spend \$10,000 a year on street tree maintenance," said Stanton. "Last year, we used the money donated to water and fertilize the trees, supplementing the work the Parks Department does."

The tours will be held rain or shine. For more information, call the BHA at (718) 858-9193. —Lisa J. Curtis

Films From Slovenia" series presents "Idle Running" (1999). \$10. 2 and 6:30 pm. Also, "Fortress Europe" (2001), 4:30 and 9:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 595-2150.

READING SERIES: Fiction-writers Lindsay Ahi and Michael Russell read from their works. 6 pm. Barbes Cafe, 276 North St. (718) 765-9177. Free.

OCLANS FILM: Cinema Williamsburg Style presents programs at 7 and 9:30 pm. \$6. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188.

Mon, May 12

BOOK FAIR: at Adelphi Academy. 9 am to 2 pm. 8515 Ridge Boulevard. (718) 258-3306.

SUPPORT: SHHH-Self Help for the Hard of Hearing meets. 2 pm. Brooklyn College Student Center, Campus Road and East 27th Street. (718) 769-6771. Free.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Youth Chorus hosts its annual benefit. Actress Rosie Perez is emcee. \$150. Silent auction preview from 6 to 6:30 pm. Concert chord performance at 6:30 pm with reception at 7:30 pm. Brooklyn College Student Center, Campus Road and East 27th Street. (718) 769-6771.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: of Community Board 7. Zoning issues will be discussed. 6:30 pm. Holy Name Church, 245 Prospect Park West. (718) 854-0003.

IDENTITY PROTECTION: Brooklyn Public Library, Business branch, hosts a talk "You Know Who You Are." Seminar offers way to protect yourself from identity theft. 6:30 to 8 pm. 260 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-7000. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents historic film "The Immigrant." Reading from his book "Coney Island: The People's Playground." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

READING SERIES: Jeffrey McDaniel reads from his works. Also, Rachel McRoberts reads

from her poetry. \$7. 7:30 pm. SoHo Voice Lounge, 453 Fourth St. (718) 369-9322.

PAINTING: Norwegian Folk Painting group meets. 7:30 pm. Refreshments. All welcome. 59th Street Church, 749 59th St. (718) 853-1734. Free.

MEETING: Eliot Chapter of Hasidim holds an open meeting. Prospective new members of cordially invited to attend. 7:30 pm. Temple Shalom, 2075 E. 46th St. (718) 382-6454.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights hosts the latest in its ongoing Monday night discussions with Rabbi Aaron Raskin. The current series is titled, "Ethics of Our Fathers." Today: "Think First: No One is Born in a Vacuum." It is open to everyone, regardless of religious background. 8 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 802-1827. Free.

MUSIC: Concert for violin, viola, cello, piano and voice. 8:30 pm. Mark Morris Dance Center, 3 Lafayette Ave. Reservations necessary. (718) 624-8400, ext. 214. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Evening of burlesque. 9:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188.

Tues, May 13

HOUSING FAIR: Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults hosts a fair featuring presentations from Con Edison, legal aid, EPIC, Medicaid, Access Ride, elder law, Mitchell-Lama Apartments and many more. Transportation available. 9:30 am to noon. 6935 Fourth Ave. (718) 748-0550. \$121. Free.

OPERA: Regina Opera Company performs "An Afternoon of Opera and Popular Music." 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Macdonald branch, 3618 Lewis Ave. (718) 376-6185.

MEETING: AARP of Bay Ridge meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing, 8000 Shore Road. (718) 748-9114.

MUSIC: Corona Ensemble performs a program of classical baroque and American folk. 4 pm. St. Jacob's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Light and Shadow" series. Today: "Incubus" (1966). \$10. 4:30, 6:30 and 9:30 pm. Cinema-chai with film critic Elliott Stein and producer Tony Gertsen. 6:30 pm screening. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Monthly book discussion group. Today's selection is "Rococo." By William Kennedy. 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

SOUTHPAW: Positive Focus, a center for emerging photo artists, hosts a benefit party. \$15. \$10 students. 7 pm. Fifth Avenue at St. John's Place. (718) 854-4639.

MUSIC: The Delicate Ensemble performs a program of classical and contemporary works by Barrios, Ibert, Kurmer, Wilder and others. \$25. \$15 seniors. \$10 students. Reception follows. 7:30 pm. BargeMusic, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 467-1348.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Pie Hole Comedy features an evening of alternative comedy, storytelling, jokes and more. \$7. 8 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188.

MUSIC: Cerdorion, a vocal chamber ensemble, presents "Regenerations: Ancient Tunes Revisited." \$15. \$10 students and seniors. St. John's Episcopal Church, 139 St. John's Place. (212) 569-5593.

Weds, May 14

LEADERS' LUNCHEON: New York Chapter, Arthritis Foundation hosts its 14th annual Brooklyn Leaders' Award Luncheon. Honorees include Celia Weinreb, publisher of The Brooklyn Papers. \$175 per ticket. 11:30 am. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Palm House, 1000 Washington Ave. (212) 784-0706.

LUNCHEON: Lutheran Medical Center Auxiliary hosts its annual fundraising luncheon. Noon to 4 pm. Call for ticket info. Res. Manor. (718) 748-0816.

FILM: The Watch Club hosts the classic thriller "North by Northwest" (1959). 2 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6960. Free.

MEETING: AARP: Narrows Chapter meets. 2 pm. Our Lady of Angels, 337 74th St. (718) 768-7572.

FLOWER WORKSHOP: The Horticultural Society of New York hosts a talk on how to plant and transform your garden. Children and adults welcome. Gloves and tools provided. 3:30 to 5 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Pacific branch, 25 Fourth Ave. (212) 757-0915. Free.

RECEPTION: St. Francis College presents exhibit "A Pastiche of Watercolors." 5 to 7 pm. 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272. Free.

MEETING: General board meeting of Community Board 6. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Jerusalem St. (718) 643-3027.

ARTS SEMINAR: Brooklyn Arts Council hosts a talk as part of its "Creativity and Practicality" series: "Managing a Box Office in Tight or 'Virtual' Quarters." 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Gale Gates et al. 37 Main St. (718) 625-0880. Free.

YOGA: Learn sahaja yoga. 6:30 to 7:45 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Carroll Gardens branch, 396 Clinton St. (718) 833-5751. Free.

NEW FEST: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Tonight's film: "Everything Will Be Fine" (1998). \$10, \$7 students. Call for time. Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

JAZZ: Jazz vocalist Sami Omasa sings. 7 pm. St. Joseph's College, Quadrange, 245 Clinton Ave. (718) 636-0374. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents the novel "Big It." 7:30 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Kleiner music. No cover. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188.

LOW BAR: DJ Muzi Wisked spins classic jazz and old country. No cover. 9 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-TLOW.

BAMCINEMATEK: The New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival hosts its bi-monthly series and presents "Everything Will Be Fine" (1998). \$10, \$7 students.

Call for time. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

THURS, MAY 15

BLOOD DRIVE: at New York Aquarium. Free admission to aquarium after donation. 10 am to 4 pm. Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street. (718) 265-3454.

PROJECT CHANCE: Workshop for parents and children. Free. 10 am to 4 pm. 44-60 Rockwell Place. (718) 694-0972. Free.

FLOWER WORKSHOP: The Horticultural Society of New York hosts a talk on how to plant and transform your garden. Children and adults welcome. Gloves and tools provided. 3 to 4:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Red Hook branch, 8 Wollcott St. (212) 757-0915. Free.

BASIC JUDAISM: Congregation B'nai Avraham offers a talk "The Holidays: An Appointments Calendar." 6:30 to 8 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 802-1827. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 467-1348.

BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts a discussion group. This month's selection is "The Grapes of Wrath." By John Steinbeck. 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

HALCYON CAFE: presents a poetry reading by Marina Preker. 7 pm. 227 Smith St. (718) 762-5188.

BRIC STUDIO: presents American Theater Nexus, featuring work by Tom X. Churn. 7:30 pm. 34 students. 7:30 pm. 57 Rockwell Place. (718) 624-0892.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: CD release party for "Birth of George." 8 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188. \$5.

SOUTHPAW: Pontieri Sisters and others perform a benefit for Project Brooklyn. \$10. 8 pm. 25 Fifth Ave. (718) 838-8200.

LOW BAR: presents music with Radigan. No cover. 10 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-TLOW.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 8 pm. See Sat.

Fri, May 16
NATURE CENTER TOUR: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a tour of its displays and the history of Marine Park area. 12:30 pm. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

BENNETT SHOW: Kendler International Drawing Space hosts "100 Small Works." \$100 includes one work of art. 6 pm. 125 Brunt St. (718) 875-2098.

RECEPTION: 718 Gallery hosts a reception for its exhibit "Color Portraits." 6 pm. 164 Fifth Ave. (718) 636-1103.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 467-1348.

LOW BAR: presents music with The Howard Fishman Quartet. No cover. 10 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-TLOW.

SUGARHILL SUPPER CLUB: Live in concert: Friends and Strangers. 8 pm. 100 Nassau St. NSP Fashion Models, NSP Dance Troupe, vocalist Simone Collins and more. \$20 includes meal. 615 DeKalb Ave. Call for time. (718) 622-0892.

STARRY NIGHT: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a night of astronomy and stargazing. 6 pm. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

CHAMBER MUSIC: Brooklyn Chamber Music Society presents its first concert. \$25. 8 pm. Monroe Place. (718) 858-0718.

SOUTHPAW: Live music with The Standard. 8:30 pm. 1175 Fifth Ave. (718) 232-0236.

BAM CAFE: presents The Michael Hashim Project. \$10 food/drink minimum. 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4111.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: New York band Gato Lento plays Japanese pop. \$6. 9:30 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 762-5188.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters." 8 pm. See Sat.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "My Fair Lady." 8 pm. See Sat.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "My Fair Lady." 8 pm. See Sat.

MICRO MUSEUM: "International Not Still Art Festival." 8 pm. See Sat. May 17.

STUDENT CONCERT: Young People Performing Workshop's dance program. 8 pm. See 651 ARTS: The Dayton Contemporary Dance.

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Fairy tale come true

At BAM's gala benefit, royals were on stage — and in the audience, too

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

For one magical night, patrons of the arts in the Borough of Kings were able to rub elbows with royalty from the Riviera.

Prior to the New York premiere of Les Ballets de Monte Carlo's "Cinderella," gala-goers sipped cocktails in tents near the Brooklyn Academy of Music and dined over luxury items on the silent auction tables while trying to nonchalantly catch glimpses of Monaco's royal family, screened by a ceiling of potted trees at the rear of the tent.

Among the couples who turned out for the black-tie extravaganza, a benefit for the ballet company and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, were their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Hanover (aka Princess Caroline and her husband, Prince Ernst August of Hanover) and His Serene Highness Prince Albert.

Prince Albert. Deeply tanned actress-mom Lauren Hutton and best-selling author Sandra Brown, injecting a dose of movie-star glamour in their glittering gowns, as well as cabinet sensation Bobby Short were spotted trading air kisses among the VIPs.

Choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot's interpretation of the classic story calls for Cinderella's mother to return to her father's desk as her father's fairy godmother. The role of the fairy-mother was

played to exquisitely elfin perfection by Bernice Coppeters.

The child's tale was made surprisingly adult with sexy costumes designed by Jerome Kaplan. Under Kaplan's direction, Cinderella's cruel step-siblings and stepmother wear coordinating corsets, garters and garter skirts that come to intimidating points (which magically did not appear to inhibit their performance of Maillot's refreshing blend of classical and contemporary ballet).

In fact the evil step-mom's wig and purple costumes seemed an homage to Cruella De Vil from "101 Dalmatians" and Scar Gorgers, the witch who menaces Simba, her Shrek and her animated friends.

The evening blurred the lines of entertainment and reality, as the audience watched the fairy tale about a bevy of lascivious maidens jockeying for the hand of the prince while sitting behind princely and princesses.

The audience of arts patrons did bristle when asked to rise for the royal family's entrance and at intermission when asked by ushers to keep to their seats so the royal family had exited from the theater. But BAM president Karen Brooks Hopkins warned the royals in her remarks preceding the performance that Brooklyn and Monaco are quite different municipalities, with Monaco taking the lead for best climate and Brooklyn winning points for



Royal gathering: (1) Author Sandra Brown beams at the pre-performance reception in tents near the Brooklyn Academy of Music. (2) His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco and (3) Her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Hanover.

our democratically elected, gregarious leader — spotted at the post-show dinner.

The "Cinderella" ball was chaired by the Honorable Maguy MacCarro-Doyle, Consul General of Monaco, and Nora Ann Wallace and Jack Nussbaum. Other VIPs in attendance were home repair guru Bob Vila, who's working on a building in DUMBO these days, choreographers Lucinda Childs and Trixie Brown, as well as socialites Mrs. Randolph Hearst and Lynne Wyatt and City

Councilmen David Yassky and James Davis. The ball was open to all, with tickets beginning at \$300 per couple. It raised \$1.2 million for BAM and Les Ballets de Monte Carlo.

Home run

Actors Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins sought refuge at BAM Rose Cinemas on April 30 from their recent storm of controversy. After Baseball Hall of Fame President Dale Petrosky objected to the politically active thespians' opposition to

the war on Iraq, the 15th anniversary screening of "Bull Durham," in which Sarandon and Robbins starred with Kevin Costner, was moved from upstate Cooperstown to BAM.

The event was attended by the movie's director Ron Shelton, and co-star Robert Wuhl, as well as Sandy the Seagull, the Brooklyn Cynics' mascot. The screening was a benefit for the Cooperstown Food Bank.

"We appreciate Brooklyn opening its doors to

See CHITTER CHATTER on page GO 7

FOOD DRUG

Continued from page GO 3

If the weather is right there's a Southern twist to many of the dishes, like the Louisiana quinoa (different flavor each week), "That's Right! Carlin Tacos," and jambalaya, but you can also order "Bubbling Macaroni and Cheese" or a grilled burger steak. Harvest serves dinner every night, breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, and brunch on weekends.

Henry's End

44 Henry St. at Cranberry Street, (718) 634-1776 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$22.95

Located two blocks from the Brooklyn Heights promenade, Henry's End is a casual neighborhood restaurant, known for a wonderful meal and a cozy, romantic atmosphere.

Chef-owner Mark Lahn creates entrees like chicken with peas, walnuts, and blue cheese, and duck with wild mushrooms. Make sure to visit Henry's End in the fall and winter (October-March) for the old world long Wild Game Festival, where exotic cuisine like the herb-crusted fire-fish and fresh seafood are bound to get your taste buds tingling.

Hill Diner

231 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 522-2220 (Cash only) Entrees: \$8.50-\$14

In spite, the Cobble Hill hangout is a diner to the coffee shops of the past — unpretentious, friendly, and casual. Located near the grassy square or reimagined diner of today. Chef-owner Lahn serves traditional bacon and eggs along with a veggie-friendly take like a fish sandwich, roasted tomato and olive potato sandwich, or mushroom and ricotta potato. Appetizers like garlic-sautéed shrimp with avocado mousse should please carnivores. For dessert, by the pie.

Inaka Sushi House

236 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 499-7554 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.60-\$16.50

The making of those beautiful little works of art called sushi is as fascinating as many people will prefer sitting at the bar where owner Joanne Wu's colorful sushi chefs work their magic. Others may prefer the comfort of the dining room. Either way, a good idea for beginners is to order the miso-glazed deluxe bowl, which contains yellowtail, salmon, mackerel, fat fish, crab meat, white fish in several varieties, shrimp and tuna roll. Sushi can also be ordered as a full meal with a variety of appetizers, and a variety of more modest combinations. (Arrival time will find you seated.) expertly seasoned and multi-in-your-mouth tender.

Isobel

60 Henry St. at Cranberry Street, www.isobelny.com, (718) 243-2010 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$16-\$24

The Moon/Old World feel of Isobel is enhanced by the rough-hewn wood (handcrafted from antique barn wood) of the owners' and chef's lighting fixtures. The French-Mediterranean menu includes wild striped bass (\$20 served in a moist mushroom sauce with cornic, bread, and accompanied by baby spring vegetables and fingerling potatoes. Another option is the double-cut pork chop (\$18) with baby leafy sautéed vegetables and apple potatoes in a prime sauce.

Organic ingredients are used whenever possible, allowing for highest quality. Weekend brunch at Isobel offers unique choices like the Cuban pressed pork, toast, eggs Benedict, and eggs Florentine. You'll find the active bar doesn't interfere with a relaxing drink because the space is divided into three areas — one is a secluded dining room perfect for small private parties.

La Brunette

300 North Sixth St. at Havemeyer Street, (718) 384-5800 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$23

Chef John Keller produces French dishes like bouillabaisse and con e vin, and delicious desserts such as creme brûlée and chocolate soufflé. This is a quiet, quiet spot with music at a level that allows conversation, a sound-absorbing tufted banquettes turning the length of one wall, and wood panels.

La Traviata

139 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 854-4700, www.latraviatadinner.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.50-\$14.50

This is a great theater for art. Ralph Tommaso senior and junior take a personal interest in their patrons. Heights, eateries, and this interest can be seen in every detail — from the marble

genato, shrimp scampi, baked darna and meat sauce. The seafood is delicious and served happily. Located on a quiet street, Michael's might be the best place to enjoy a meal. If the word hadn't gotten out years ago — mostly from satisfied customers who return from all over the metropolitan area. Michael's pastry shop and ice cream parlor are located across the street.

Mo-Bay Restaurant

112 Delafave Ave. at Ashland Place, (718) 522-5565 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$15.75

If Caribbean, soul and vegetarian food are what you fancy, then Mo-Bay restaurant is the place to go. Mo-Bay's menu is a unique yet relaxing and the fresh flowers and reggae music create the place a cool, island vibe. Popular dishes include the fish, the chicken, the chicken, curried chicken and barbecue chicken. The restaurant is a casual, family-friendly place with a laid-back atmosphere. The restaurant is a casual, family-friendly place with a laid-back atmosphere.

At Long Tan food bar, easy cocktails make drinking here an original experience. The wine list comes from Australia and New Zealand, making the restaurant a favorite spot for wine enthusiasts.

Long Tan

196 Fifth Ave. at Union Street, (718) 622-8444 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8-\$16

Serving Thai food, Long Tan is a friendly and relaxed restaurant where comfy cushions in vibrant colors line the open, white dining room. Paper lanterns hang around the room and a large window overlooks a garden area with outdoor seating.

For appetizers, Long Tan offers a crab-and-mango summer roll, which is a delicate wrap of fresh crabmeat and crabmeat. Other appetizers include the fish cakes with tofu, vegetable spring rolls and shrimp and shrimp spring rolls. For entrees, the restaurant's signature dishes include a yellow curry of butternut squash, three-banded eggplant and duck with tamari sauce. Long Tan also offers brunch (Saturday and Sunday) 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

At Long Tan food bar, easy cocktails make drinking here an original experience. The wine list comes from Australia and New Zealand, making the restaurant a favorite spot for wine enthusiasts.

Loulou

222 Delafave Ave. at Clermont Avenue, (718) 246-0633

Serving healthy and reasonably priced food, the French restaurant is part of the Fort Greene restaurant. Loulou has a city atmosphere with rustic tables, exposed brick walls and a low-key garden. The menu focuses on seafood — seared Maine diver sea scallops with grilled portobello mushrooms in a warm herb and cream sauce, and champagne sea bass with shrimp and scallops.

Luce

411 11th St. at Sixth Avenue, (718) 768-6999 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$18

Luce's Tuscan inspired menu uses local ingredients and seasonal produce. Fried calamari with tomato marinara is a popular dish. Pasta is freshly made. A bitter-sweet chocolate cake is paired with cinnamon-flavored peas.

Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 652-5015, www.marcopolo-restaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$16.95-\$29.95

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts valet parking, a formal atmosphere, and a sophisticated menu that includes an array of local specialties, such as lamb, pork, chicken, veal, duck and fish prepared by chef Francesco Intrigo. The elegant restaurant offers pastas, cakes, tortas, foie gras, and seafood. Marco Polo is open for lunch and dinner.

Michael's

2929 Avenue R at Nostrand Avenue, (718) 998-7851, www.michaels-brooklyn.com (AmEx, Carta Blanca, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11-\$30

Over 35 years ago, Michael Caccione opened a small pizzeria with three tables and a sidewalk window. Today his sons, Fred and John, preside over an elegant restaurant with a spacious dining room with fine-covered tables. A piano plays every night on a baby grand. The hot seafood appetizer for two includes grilled octopus, calamari, olive

both indoors in the light, airy dining room and outdoors in the sidewalk cafe. The dining room is a casual, family-friendly place with a laid-back atmosphere. The restaurant is a casual, family-friendly place with a laid-back atmosphere.

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126 Front St. at Pearl Street, (718) 243-9002 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$20

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Who's their best friend? This Bay Ridge eatery recently will be expanded to dining room with a suspended ceiling that seems to float, date trees, plants and a bar. The dining room is a casual and the cuisine is continental, with an emphasis on fresh fish and seafood. Seaside seafood, fresh lobster and crab are popular dishes. But Pearl Room also serves fish, mignon, and steaks, chicken and veal, and salads and pastas. The most popular dessert is the fried ice cream. Garden and sidewalk cafe seats available.

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242 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 243-2151 (Cash only) Entrees: \$12-\$24

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The ivy green and powder blue motif of 2 Fifteen Cucina starts with the walls, is picked up in the floor tiles, and makes a beautiful crescendo in the large painting of the Bay of Naples.

The ivy green and powder blue motif of 2 Fifteen Cucina starts with the walls, is picked up in the floor tiles, and makes a beautiful crescendo in the large painting of the Bay of Naples.

★ Full review available at www.BrooklynPapers.com

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Living at 'Chess'

It's (iron) curtains for Gallery Players' revival of Tim Rice's Cold War pop opera

By Paulanne Simmons
For The Brooklyn Papers

For some reason, the Gallery Players have chosen to revive "Chess," a pop opera written by Tim Rice and the male half of ABBA, about Cold War intrigue at the chessboard.

And while they've assembled the considerable talents of director Mark Harborth ("Animal Fair," "Noises Off," "Angels in America"), there's also an uneven cast of actors, many of who are making their Gallery Players debut. There are a memorable moments in the production—like the scenes between Florence (Michelle Lane), the mistress, and Svetlana (Mary Mossberg), the wife; and any time Joe Henderson appears on stage as Molokov, the Russian chess champion's second.

But for the most part, the play has the vitality of a wet sponge. It's too bad the Gallery Players had to end an otherwise fine season on such a tepid note.

Rice conceived "Chess" as a musical about the way the Cold War influenced both our culture and the individuals who live in it. At first, Rice approached his former partner, Andrew Lloyd Webber, with whom he had created such hits as "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat," to write the score. But Webber was already committed to another project.

Then, in 1981, producer Richard Vio introduced Rice to Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, who created the "70s Swedish pop group ABBA. The duo was looking to branch out into musical theater. Andersson and Ulvaeus wrote a concept album based on Rice's idea, and two numbers from the album, "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well," were hits on the charts—numbers, one might add, which remain the best ones from the album.

Unfortunately, Bjorn and Ulvaeus also composed over two dozen nondescript and indistinguishable songs for the London production, which ran for three years, but never managed to recoup its original investment.

With this kind of inauspicious beginning, it's hard to understand why "Chess" was brought to Broadway. Yet on April 28, 1988 the musical opened at the Imperial Theatre—and closed rather promptly on June 26 after only 68 performances, even less of a commercial success than the London production.

Some blamed director Trevor Nunn (whose impressive credits include "Vin-



Game boy: (Left to right) Scoop Slone as Freddie, Michelle Lane as Florence, Mitchell Shapiro as Arbiter and Jason Watson as Anatoly in a scene from the Gallery Players production of "Chess."

cent in Britain." "Noises Off." "Not About Nightingales" and, of course, "Les Miserables" for the debacle. Nunn replaced Elaine Paige, for whom Rice had written the romantic lead role of Florence, with American Judy Kuhn, and he brought in playwright Richard Nelson to write a new book and add more extensive dialogue to a script that had been mostly songs. Others pointed to New York Times

THEATER

The Gallery Players production of "Chess" plays through May 18, Thursday-Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 3 pm, at 199 14th St. at Fifth Avenue. Tickets are \$15, \$12 children under 12 and seniors. For reservations, call (718) 595-0547.

theater critic Frank Rich, whose scathing review praised several performers but little else.

If you ask this reviewer, Broadway had no one and nothing to blame this failure on other than the greed of the producers.

Set against the background of East-West rivalries during the Cold War, "Chess" is a love triangle involving Freddie (Scoop Slone), the snide and arrogant American chess master, Anatoly (Jason

Watson), his sensitive and sincere Russian opponent, and Freddie's second, Florence, a Hungarian refugee who was taken to America after the insurrection of 1956.

Anatoly defects from East to West, and Florence defects from Freddie to Anatoly. Neither defection brings the defectors happiness.

Watson is adequately sincere, but he is seriously lacking in passion—even for a chess player. Lane has a nice, strong voice, but her portrayal lacks maturity, and she always seems to be wearing a business suit, no matter what she puts on. Then there's Slone, who looks and acts like a skinny 21-year-old with laryngitis. Since when did the King play chess?

Pop operas with recognizable names attached to them will always have a cult following. But serious lovers of music and musicals can certainly find better fare than this dull revue. As for the plot—it was suffocated by clichés and dialogue your kid brother might have written before he flunked out of college.

At the end of the play, Florence and Anatoly say goodbye at the airport, the echoes of "Cassablanca" were so strong it was surprising that no one began humming the "Marseillaise." But don't be fooled. Watson and Lane are no Bergman and Bogie.

CHITTER CHATTER...

Continued from page G5

"Bull Durham," said Robbins. "From Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Gil Hodges and Sandy Koufax to the Cy-clones, Brooklyn's glorious baseball heritage makes it a fitting place for the 'Bull Durham' celebration."

Sarandon was also honored on May 5 at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's annual gala tribute where Park Slope actor-director John Turturro paid tribute to the actress he directed in his film "Iluminata." Other celebs who turned out for the love fest were David Bowie, Tim Curry, Geena Davis, Harry Belafonte, screenwriter Gore Vidal (godfather of Sarandon's daughter) and director Paul Schrader.

In fact the only scandal of the night seemed to be Sarandon's chagrined reaction to the racy film clips from her formidable body of work—such as scenes from "Atlantic City" (1980) and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975)—that were shown to her three young children who were in the Avery Fisher Hall audience.

Mark's spot
At the Mark Morris Dance Group benefit on March 25, gala-goers partied late into the night following the opening-night performance of the group's Brooklyn Academy of Music season. Gala committee chairs Shelby Gans and Isaac Mizrahi did their part smooching attendees but co-chair, actress Isabella Rossellini, and choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov were sorely missed no-shows.

Dobbie Harry. "Law & Order" star Sam Waterston and actor William Dafoe all professed themselves fans of Morris' innovative choreography, which that night included "Serenade." Morris' solo performance incorporating canstans, a fan and a metal pipe, in a tribute to his late friend Lou Harrison.

"His work is so witty and there's so much joy to it," said Harry. Waterston said it was "no easy" to support Morris' work and added that he attends performances "whenever-



Dance fever: (1) Choreographer Mark Morris with Jamie Markowitz and Brooklyn Borough President Mark Markowitz and (2) gala co-chair Shelby Gans with actor Sam Waterston at the Mark Morris Dance Group's gala. (3) Actors Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins are clutched in the furry embrace of Sandy the Seagull, mascot of the Brooklyn Cyclones at the April 30 screening of "Bull Durham" at BAM.

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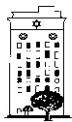
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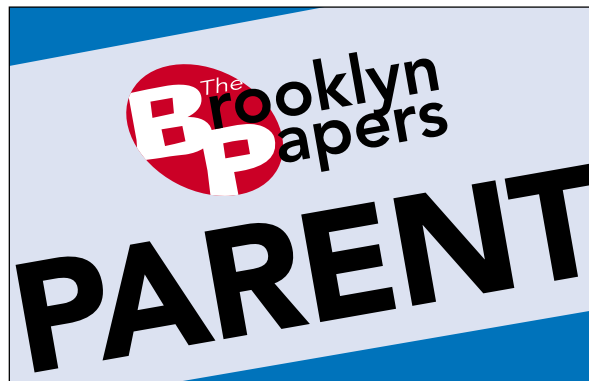
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Caring for elderly is a family affair

Q: "How can we parents prepare our children for visiting aging grandparents and great-grandparents at nursing homes?" — a mother

A: A 3-year-old girl loved to rub cream on her great-grandmother's wrinkled hands, while her cousins told stories, danced and sang during their monthly nursing home visits.

But other sprouts on their family tree seldom brought such joy to their great-grandmother, who had Alzheimer's. The kids were scared to visit, their parents said. And besides, "the place was too depressing."

Children take their cues from their parents. If you approach visits as a dreadful duty, so will your kids. Instead, be upbeat, talk about what to expect, and be creative to connect young and old.

Talk to your child in simple terms about grandma, that her ailments aren't catching, what her limits are, that the visit will brighten her day, suggests a mother from Massachusetts who takes her 3-year-old son on trips to nursing homes.

"Your attitude will help determine your child's comfort," she says. "Emphasize the fun stuff: elevators, gloves to blow into balloons, cool beds that go up and down."

Visits starting early on teach children important lessons, the mother says. "We are always there for the people we love; informed people are nothing to be afraid of; and they as children have an amazing ability to make people happy just by showing up and being themselves."

Fear of elderly people, particularly in an unfamiliar setting such as a nursing home, is normal but can be overcome if kids talk about their concerns and gain an understanding that these are real people with real feelings, says Stephen Garber, PhD, psychologist and director of the Behavioral Institute of Atlanta.

What often scares their kids, parents say, is an invasion of their personal space by well-meaning but lonely nursing home residents who rarely see children. A child has the right to avoid being hugged by strangers and will need parental coaching on how to politely back away as needed. Jan Walker says her children were 10 and 8 when her mother died, and they understood there would be unfamiliar smells, sounds and sights in those last years when Grandma was in a 24-hour care nursing unit.

Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flieger



tor of the Behavioral Institute of Atlanta.

Other ideas to make nursing home visits more comfortable:

- Read your children Mem Fox's "Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge" (Scott Foresman, 1989). The book is about a boy who lives next door to a home for the aged and hears that one of his favorite residents "has lost her memory." He searches for the meaning of the word memory, and collects trinkets representing memories to give to his friend. Your kids can collect memory trinkets for their own elderly relatives, and learn about Alzheimer's from a child's point of view.

- Limit each visit to 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the child.

- Be friendly to other residents but keep your visits focused on your relative.

- Have fun. One reader says her extended family gathers at her mother's nursing home each week for a pizza party capped off by performances by the grandkids.

- Think beyond beige walls. Seek out playground equipment and picnic tables on the nursing home grounds.

- In some cases, it will be appropriate for your family's pet to help ease the way.

- Take crayons and paper and have the child make a picture for grandma's room.

- Leave a few books, puzzles and art supplies for young cousins to find, if your relative has a spare drawer.

- Tell your children about special memories, such as "Grandpa used to take us fishing." Bring photos to help your loved one recall the trips and record what is said.

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